Hungary's Orban Snubs Biden, Skips Major NATO 'Eastern Flank' Meeting

Update(1539ET): It's been confirmed that Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban snubbed Biden on Wednesday. Orban was invited to represent Hungary as the US president met with nine NATO 'eastern flank' countries, but Orban was a no-show. Instead he sent Hungary's ceremonial president, Katalin Novák, in his place. As the AP reports:

Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban, the right-wing populist leader who argued last week that the European Union is partly to blame for prolonging Russia's war in Ukraine, has balked at sanctions on Moscow and arming Kyiv. **Orban was skipping the meeting with Biden, and President Katalin Novák was attending in his stead**.

Still, Klaus Iohannis, the president of Romania, insisted that **"The B9 is stronger than ever."**

On the same day Orban's foreign minister Peter Szijjarto issued a fresh call for peace talks, saying at a press conference, "Having seen and listened to the speeches by the presidents of the US and Russia yesterday, I think they would have made humanity a much bigger service by talking to each other."

Vaccine, stats, government: feb23 **Idaho Lawmakers Seek To Criminalize Injecting Of mRNA COVID-19 Vaccines**

Republican lawmakers from Idaho have introduced a bill that will make it a crime to administer mRNA vaccines in the state, citing safety concerns, which would apply to COVID-19 vaccines manufactured by companies like Pfizer and Moderna.

China, war: feb23 **US May Release Intelligence Showing China Poised To Transfer Arms To Russia**

China Sends Supertankers To US Gulf On Crude Oil Buying Spree

Nvidia Soars 8% After Beating Earnings, Guiding Higher Than Expected

*"The Biden administration is **considering releasing intelligence it believes shows that China is weighing whether to supply weapons to support Russia's war in Ukraine**, U.S. officials said," The Wall Street Journal reports.*

Iraq To Drop Dollar For Yuan In Trade With China

Iraq To Drop Dollar For Yuan In Trade With China

BY TYLER DURDEN
THURSDAY, FEB 23, 2023 - 06:44 AM

Via The Cradle,

The Iraqi central bank announced Wednesday that, for the first time, it plans to **allow trade from China to be settled directly in yuan instead of the US dollar** to improve access to foreign currency.

"It is the first time imports would be financed from China in yuan, as Iraqi imports from China have been financed in (US) dollars only," the government's economic adviser, Mudhir Salih, told *Reuters*.

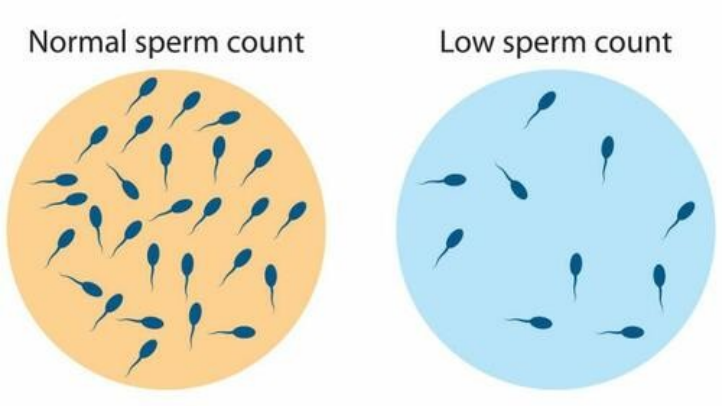
journal, stats, middle east, islam, war: feb23 'ISIS Bride' Shamima Begum Bid To Restore British Citizenship Rejected ***Judge dismisses 23-year-old's legal challenge*** *and upholds Home Office decision to revoke her UK citizenship...*

Shamima Begum failed in a last-ditch legal bid to have her British citizenship restored.

On Wednesday, the Special Immigration Appeals Commission (SIAC) fully dismissed the 23-year-old's legal challenge against a Home Office decision to revoke her status as a UK citizen.

declining sperm count revisited: new meta-analysis shows increased acceleration

A recently published meta-analysis shows that global sperm counts are declining worldwide—at an accelerating rate.

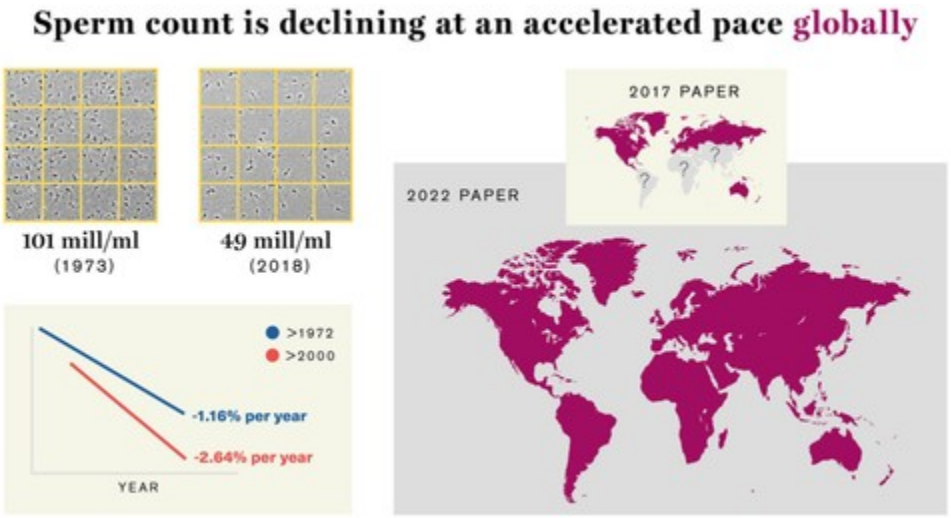


The article, published in the journal Human Reproduction Update in November 2022 by an international team of researchers, reviewed 2,936 scholarly abstracts and 868 full articles and **analyzed data from 38 sperm count studies done on six continents, updating their landmark study of 2017.**

The 2017 study found sperm counts had fallen in North America, Europe, and Australia by over 50 percent in a fifty-year span. The current study updated this data as well as added data from South/Central America, Asia, and Africa.

“The aim of this study was to examine trends in sperm count among men from all continents. The broader implications of a global decline in sperm count, the knowledge gaps left unfilled by our prior analysis, and the controversies surrounding this issue warranted an up-to-date meta-analysis,” said the authors.

The analysis found that while sperm counts had declined at the average rate per year of 1.16 percent between 1972 and 2000, the rate of decline since 2000 has increased to an average of 2.64 percent per year.



Reviewing the findings in an After Skool YouTube episode, study author Shanna Swan said:

“Now we can conclude that **among men who didn’t know what their fertility [rate] was, who are, by the way, most representative of the general population, that there was a significant decline [in sperm counts and sperm concentration] in Asia, Africa, and South America**—so now we can say that our finding of a significant decline in sperm concentration and count is worldwide—that was a big change from the 2017 paper.

“The other change from the 2017 paper was the rate at which sperm counts are declining: When we look at recent years—particularly since the turn of the century—the rate is 2.64 per year. That’s more than double 1.16, the prior finding.”

The Role of Plastics in Reproductive Disruption

The obvious question is—why the accelerated rate of decline?

Swan dismissed genetic explanations, pointing out that genetic changes take “many generations to appear” whereas these changes are taking place in two generations or less.

“**That leaves us with environment,**” Swan said.

Swan and other experts believe the problem is a class of chemicals called endocrine disruptors, which interfere with the body’s hormones.

*Read more **here...***

coletrickle45
10 hours ago
(Edited)

Hard to get an accurate sperm count when people jack off multiple times a day.

**** kills your sperm count.

Early contact, high frequent use, and high frequency of masturbation during ********** use could lead to addiction trends and aberrant reproductive hormone levels and semen quality

play_arrow38play_arrow3

Ms.Creant
10 hours ago

That has been true since the begining.

play_arrow15play_arrow2

coletrickle45
10 hours ago

I disagree. There are studies that show that watching it too much kills sperm production

play_arrow7play_arrow3

Ms.Creant
10 hours ago

I assume you are talking about ****? Interesting. Men always tell me that they are so sensitive as teens that wind blowing on it might stimulate a

result. I have been told multiple times a day is normal. Some young men are even distressed by it, it is why baggy clothes as a style works for many.

play_arrow9play_arrow

Z Free
9 hours ago

So many endocrine disrupters in our food and environment these days. Thermal paper that receipts are printed on are horrible,

play_arrow21play_arrow1

zotz
8 hours ago

"Global Sperm Counts Declining"

C'mon man !

play_arrow5play_arrow1

psychopath
8 hours ago

Yet birthrates in the turd world are well above replacement. I call ********.

play_arrow13play_arrow3

Systems Planet
8 hours ago

The plastic inside soda cans kills sperm.

https://youtu.be/EagzNomxTYg

play_arrow10play_arrow1

MightyZen
1 hour ago

Thermal paper receipts? I learn always a new thing in here, haha.

play_arrow2play_arrow

JSG

1 hour ago
(Edited)

Yup. Every thermal paper receipt is filled with PFOA. BTW microwave popcorn paper is similarly pure PFOA and even worse because it's in contact with food explicitly. NEVER eat microwave popcorn!

It's actually central to the function of printing. Need to go back to conventional paper and ink to avoid it. That extra step of separate ink is the only and entire reason for thermal paper's ubiquity.

play_arrow3play_arrow1

Fviia
35 minutes ago

You do not know what you are talking about.

play_arrowplay_arrow

Show More Replies

read later: church, sacrifice

Levant[edit]

Further information: Binding of Isaac

References in the Bible point to an awareness of and disdain of human sacrifice in the history of ancient Near Eastern practice. During a battle with the Israelites, the King of Moab gives his firstborn son and heir as a whole burnt offering (*olah*, as used of the Temple sacrifice) (2 Kings 3:27).[15] The Bible then recounts that, following the King's sacrifice, "There was great indignation [or wrath] against Israel" and that the Israelites had to raise their siege of the Moabite capital and go away. This verse had perplexed many later Jewish and Christian commentators, who tried to explain what the impact of the Moabite King's sacrifice was, to make those under siege emboldened while disheartening the Israelites, make God angry at the Israelites or the Israelites fear his anger, make Chemosh (the Moabite god) angry, or otherwise.[16] Whatever the explanation, evidently at the time of writing, such an act of sacrificing the firstborn son and heir, while prohibited by Israelites (Deuteronomy 12:31; 18:9-12), was considered as an emergency measure in the Ancient Near East, to be performed in exceptional cases where divine favor was desperately needed.

The binding of Isaac appears in the Book of Genesis (22); the story appears in the Quran, though Islamic tradition holds that Ismael was the one to be sacrificed. In both the Quranic and Biblical stories, **God tests Abraham by asking him to present his son as a sacrifice on Moriah. Abraham agrees to this command without arguing. The story ends with an angel stopping Abraham at the last minute and providing a ram, caught in some nearby bushes, to be sacrificed instead.** Many Bible scholars have suggested this story's origin was a remembrance of an era when human sacrifice was abolished in favour of animal sacrifice.[17][18]

Another probable instance of human sacrifice mentioned in the Bible is the sacrifice of Jephthah's daughter in Judges 11. Jephthah vows to sacrifice to God whatsoever comes to greet him at the door when he returns home if he is victorious. The vow is stated in the Book of Judges 11:31: "Then whoever comes of the doors of my house to meet me, when I return victorious from the Ammonites, shall be the Lord's, to be offered up by me as a burnt offering (NRSV)." When he returns from battle, his virgin daughter runs out to greet him. She begs for, and is granted, "two months, so that I may go and wander on the mountains, and bewail my virginity, my companions and I", after which "[Jephthah] did with her according to the vow he had made."[19]

Two kings of Judah, Ahaz and Manassah, sacrificed their sons. Ahaz, in 2 Kings 16:3, sacrificed his son. "... He even made his son pass through fire, according to the abominable practices of the nations whom the LORD drove out before the people of Israel (NRSV)." King Manasseh sacrificed his sons in 2 Chronicles 33:6. "He made his son pass through fire in the valley of the son of Hinnom ... He did much evil in the sight of the Lord, provoking him to anger (NRSV)." The valley symbolized hell in later religions, such as Christianity, as a result.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Human_sacrifice
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Korban

Africa, war: feb22 suspected jihadists killed at least 15 soldiers in troubled northern Burkina Faso, just three days after an ambush that claimed the lives of 51 troops, security sources said Tuesday.

Under pressure: junta chief Captain Ibrahim Traore, dailymail.uk, feb.21st

https://www.monitor.co.ug/uganda/news/nearly-70-troops-killed-in-two-jihadist-attacks-in-troubled-burkina-4132774

Energy, war: feb22 **Tanzania Approves Controversial $3.5 Billion Oil Pipeline**
Iraq Signs Agreement With UAE to Develop Natural Gas Fields

UAE Defense Firm EDGE Bags $1.1 Billion Deal to Supply MKII Corvettes to Angola
Iranian-German man sentenced to death on ‘terrorism’ charges

Sharmahd is accused of being the leader of the US-based group Tondar (which means “thunder” in Farsi), also known

as the Kingdom Assembly of Iran, which says it seeks to restore the monarchy that was overthrown after the last shah fled Iran shortly before the 1979 revolution.

The Los Angeles-based group runs radio and television stations abroad that support Iranian opposition groups.

Stats: feb22 **Daughter of Malcolm X to Sue CIA, FBI, NYC Police for $100 Million**

Government, war: feb22 **Danish Former Minister Charged With Revealing State Secrets**

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Updated February 22, 2023 - 6:10 PM EST

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Antiwar.com Director Eric Garris Speech at San Francisco Rage Against the War Machine Rally Feb. 19

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- 'Equality of Injustice for All': Saudi Arabia Expands Crackdown on Dissent
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Tsai Ing-wen Tells Rep. Khanna Taiwan Is Increasing Military Exchanges With US

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- Russia Summons Bangladesh Envoy Over Sanctioned Ships Dispute
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- Russia Renews Calls on Sweden to Disclose Nord Stream Findings
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- Daughter of Malcolm X to Sue CIA, FBI, NYC Police for $100 Million
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Stats, markets, war, sanctions: feb22 **Supermarkets in the UK Ration Fruit and Vegetables as Energy Costs Force Greenhouse Closures**

Supermarkets ration fruit and veg as shelves empty in supply shortage: Asda restricts sales of some items to three per customer as UK farmers switch off greenhouses amid soaring energy costs and Europe is hit by 'perfect storm' of growing issues

- **Tomatoes, peppers, cucumbers, lettuce and cauliflower limited in stores**
- **Many shoppers across the country have been growing frustrated by shortages**

By TOM PYMAN FOR MAILONLINE
PUBLISHED: 06:14 EST, 21 February 2023 | **UPDATED:** 09:49 EST, 21 February 2023

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Supermarkets are rationing fruit and vegetables as shelves continue to remain bare in stores across the country.

Shoppers in some **Asda** stores have been told that they can buy up to three packs each of tomatoes, peppers, cucumbers, lettuce, salad bags, broccoli, cauliflower and raspberries at a time as supplies run empty in a number of outlets.
The crisis has developed in recent weeks due to soaring energy costs which have forced British farmers to switch off greenhouses as they desperately try to make ends meet.

Top Stories by **Daily Mail**

Inside the meticulous planning of Biden's trip insidea warzone

Meanwhile, **a 'perfect storm' of flooding, cold temperatures and cancelled ferries** have caused major supply problems on the Continent.
One shopper, Hilary Paterson-Jones, said she had to visit four supermarkets in her home town of Holyhead, Anglesey, to complete her weekly shop.

She said: 'There was hardly any fresh produce in Tesco. In Morrisons I asked a young staff member what was going on and he said there was nothing in the back stores.

'It was the same in Aldi and Lidl, it seemed to be affecting all the supermarkets.

'Shortages have been getting worse in recent months but I was shocked to see so many empty shelves at 10am on a Saturday morning.

'Things can get bad during the summer when the tourists arrive, but nothing like this. Prices are going through the roof but a lack of basic foodstuffs is unacceptable.'

After sharing her concerns on social media, Ms Paterson-Jones was contacted by scores of other people from around Britain.

One couldn't get apples, another struggled with cabbages, a third was stumped for orange juice. Tomatoes and iceberg lettuce proved particularly difficult to buy.

In one Morrisons store, staff put up a sign apologising for the disruption.

It read: 'Availability across our tomato range has been significantly impacted by adverse weather conditions across Spain and Morocco. The current shortage is likely to improve within a couple of weeks.'

An Asda spokesperson told MailOnline: 'Like other supermarkets, we are experiencing sourcing challenges on some products that are grown in southern Spain and north Africa.

'We have introduced a temporary limit of three of each product on a very small number of fruit and vegetable lines, so customers can pick up the products they are looking for.'

Shadow environment secretary Jim McMahon, who will speak at the National Farmers' Union (NFU) conference today, told Sky News how soaring energy costs in the UK were also a major reason for shortages.

'You've got farmers who feel so frustrated that they haven't got government support and if you're a consumer you're going into the supermarket and seeing that shelves are empty,' he said.

'Why? Because the Government are not on the side of farmers or on the side of food security, and in the end, consumers are paying the price.

'We do grow produce here but it's a matter of fact that we're not growing tomatoes for instance because the cost of energy in the greenhouses is so high that they've just been turned off. That is a contributing factor to why there are gaps on the supermarket shelves.

'The reason you can't buy eggs on Pancake Day in many supermarkets is because of avian flu. The Government could have responded much quicker to that and farmers feel very frustrated with the way they've been treated.'

Mr McMahon's comments were backed up by the NFU's vice president David Exwood.

He told MailOnline: 'We are repeatedly seeing a predictable combination of factors such as energy costs and weather leading to empty supermarket shelves.

'Our UK food resilience is currently gone. The Government needs to take this seriously.

'Producers must have the confidence they need, working within a fair and transparent supply chain, ensuring fair and sustainable returns so they can do what they do best - produce nutritious, high quality British food to meet demand from shoppers.'

Tim O'Malley, of major importer Nationwide Produce, said volatile growing conditions had seen wholesale spot prices for fresh produce lines soar by as much as 300 per cent.

Frost damage to home-grown British crops such as carrots, cabbages, parsnips and cauliflowers also means many fields have been written off.

Some farming campaigners say red tape associated with Brexit is also playing a part.

Mr O'Malley said the single biggest factor behind the crisis was 'Mother Nature' and volatile weather.

He added: 'I can honestly say that in the 40 years I've been in this trade, I've never seen such high spot prices across such a broad range of products for such a prolonged period of time.'

He said the delivered price for a box of peppers was up from £8-£9 to around £22, while a box of tomatoes was up from £7-£8 to £14.

Courgettes have risen from £5-£7 to £12, iceberg lettuces from £6-£8 to £19, and Dutch onions from £250-£270 per ton to £700.

Mr O'Malley said: 'It's the perfect storm of terrible growing weather and, of course, inflation.

'It started with the heatwave and drought this summer throughout Europe. Then we had a very mild autumn and then we were plunged into a deep freeze.

'Just three weeks ago Ibiza was covered in snow. Temperatures dropped to -15C (5F) in Catalonia while at the same time, the overnight low here was -8C (18F) in Oxfordshire.

'Spain is our main source of fresh produce in winter by far. They've pretty much gone straight from a red-hot summer to a freezing cold winter with no autumn in between.

'All this has led to a major reduction in yields, reduction in size, quality issues, viruses.'

Mr O'Malley also pointed to prolonged periods of sub-zero temperatures in Morocco, another major source of fresh produce, notably tomatoes.

Andrew Opie, of the British Retail Consortium, said: 'Difficult weather conditions in the south of Europe and northern Africa have disrupted harvest for some fruit and vegetables including tomatoes.

'However, supermarkets are adept at managing supply chain issues and are working with farmers to ensure that customers are able to access a wide range of fresh produce.'

War, middle east: feb22 **Israel, Saudi Arabia Hold Talks on Increasing Military Ties**
sanctions, war, russia: feb22 Russia Summons Bangladesh Envoy Over Sanctioned Ships Dispute

Bangladesh earlier this month banned dozens of Russian ships that have fallen under Western sanctions from entering its territorial waters, citing the need to comply with the restrictions.

Russia's foreign ministry said in a statement it had told Bangladesh's ambassador in Moscow that the move was not in line with "traditionally friendly bilateral relations and may adversely affect the prospects for cooperation in various fields".

Russia's state-owned nuclear energy organisation Rosatom is currently building Bangladesh's first nuclear power plant, due to start operating in 2024. Dhaka has asked Moscow to ensure it uses non-sanctioned ships for delivering equipment for the plant.

Belarus Says Ukraine Army Groups Massed at Border, Risking Its Security

Stats, government: feb22 **Here's How Much Bloomberg Terminal Users Are Detached From Reality**

Here's How Much Bloomberg Terminal Users Are Detached From Reality

BY TYLER DURDEN
TUESDAY, FEB 21, 2023 - 07:00 PM

One of the best insights into just how disconnected wealthy folks are from the souring economic reality of high inflation crushing the bottom 90% of households is in the latest MLIV Pulse Survey asking Bloomberg Terminal users 'at what dollar amount they would need their retirement savings to feel comfortable'.

The response: At least $3 million or more to retire with ease, according to the 553 respondents.

In the US, 2.9% said less than $1 million, 7.6% said more than $1 million, 31.4% said $3 million, 42.6% said between $3-5 million, 13% said $20 million, and 2.5% said more than $20 million.

Source: Bloomberg

Bloomberg noted:

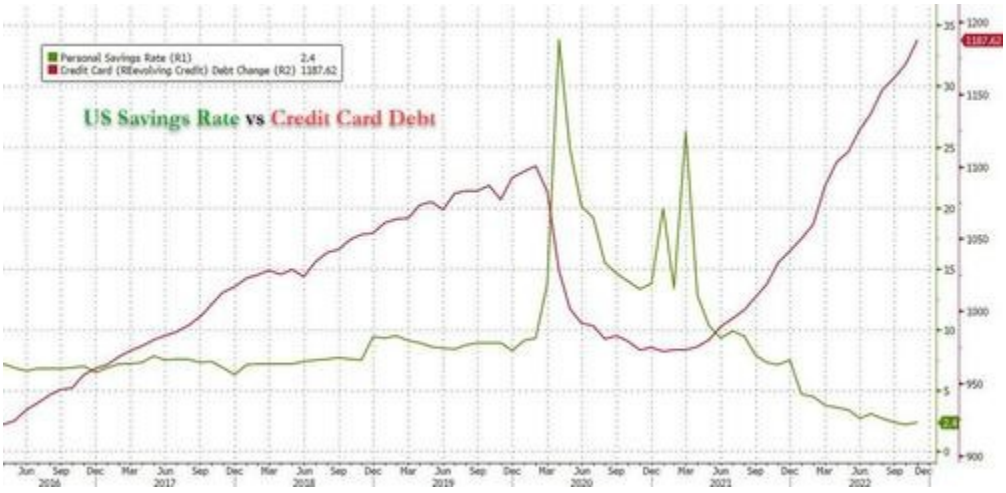
Most respondents are optimistic they'll move closer to their retirement goal by ending 2023 with more in retirement savings than at the end of 2022. Last year, inflation and rising borrowing costs hammered stocks, and since bond prices also plunged, the average US 401(k) retirement account was down 20% at plans where Vanguard Group is a recordkeeper.

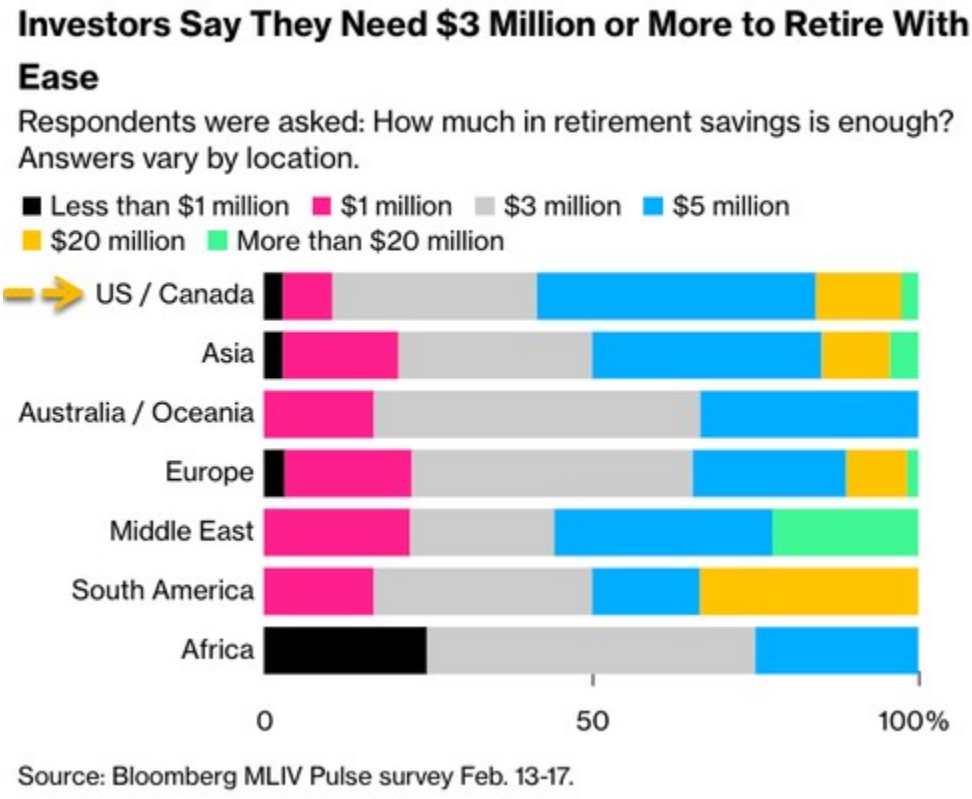
But here's the disconnect between the respondents and everyone else. These folks aren't in the bottom 90% and might not be suffering 21 months of negative real wage growth, depleted savings, maxed-out credit cards, and increased risk of job loss.

A recent survey by Bankrate showed one-third of American workers -- nearly 36% -- don't have retirement accounts such as a 401(k) or IRA. The survey showed 52% of Americans are behind in their retirement savings.

And many in the bottom 90% have found themselves working longer as the average retirement age has increased from 62 to 65.

Simply, the respondents of the MLIV Pulse Survey are disconnected from reality.





Stats, ai, tech: feb22 **ChatGPT Co-Creator Says The World May Not Be "That Far Away From Potentially Scary" AI**

Stats, vaccine, government: feb22 **Minnesota Bar Owner Faces $350,000 In Fines For Defying State COVID-19 Restrictions**

Authored by Michael Clements via The Epoch Times (emphasis ours),

A Minnesota bar owner lost her business, liquor and food service licenses, and is facing up to $350,000 in fines for violating a governor's executive order. But the Minnesota Attorney General's lawsuit doesn't list any actual harm caused by her actions.

"**I didn't break the law; I defied the executive order**," Lisa Monet Zarza told The Epoch Times.

Zarza's attorney, Richard Dahl of Brainerd, Minnesota, did not respond to a request for comment by The Epoch Times. Nor did the Minnesota Attorney General's office.

The lawsuit was filed in Minnesota District Court in Dakota County. It alleges that Lionheart LLC, doing business as Alibi Drinkery of Lakeville, Minnesota, opened for business illegally from Dec. 16–30, 2020.

Gov. Tm Walz had ordered bars, restaurants, and other businesses closed to stem the spread of the CCP (Chinese Communist Party) virus, commonly known as the novel coronavirus.

It was one of a series of executive orders issued from March 2020 to June 2021 after Walz declared a "peacetime emergency." A review of available data by The Epoch Times indicates **Walz's orders likely accomplished nothing toward controlling the spread of the CCP virus.**

Zarza said that she and her business partner had complied with all state mandates up to that point. They closed for the initial two-week period in March 2020 to “flatten the curve.” They offered take-out service and outdoor dining as much as they could.

Zarza said Alibi Drinkery never reported an issue and was never connected to any COVID cases.

“**We closed exactly how they said**,” she said.

The peacetime emergency declaration, approved by the legislature, allowed Walz to issue edicts with the power of law. One of those was Executive Order 20-99.

It was issued on Nov. 19, 2020, in response to a spike in positive tests for the virus in the state.

According to the order, “The virus is everywhere, meaning that every interaction we have with people outside our households poses a risk of transmission.”

A mock skeleton is attached to the fence as protesters gathered outside Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz’s official residence in St. Paul, Minn., on April 17, 2020, to call on him to loosen stay-at-home restrictions imposed across the state because of the coronavirus. (Jim Mone/AP Photo)

The 23-page order declared that previous efforts to control the spread of the virus needed to be increased. Therefore, a mask mandate was instituted, and various organizations such as gyms, bars and restaurants, sports venues, and others considered high risks for spreading the virus were ordered to close.

She described Alibi Drinkery as a “hometown bar” in Lakeville, a community in the Minneapolis-St. Paul area. She said she was active in the Lakeville business scene

serving on various boards and with the Chamber of Commerce. Alibi Drinkery sponsored sports teams and hosted parties and community events.

“**We were embedded in the community,**” Zarza said.

Zarza said she started in the restaurant business as a 20-year-old. She loves the work, and it has become the only life she has ever really known.

“I don’t drink, and I don’t do drugs; I run restaurants,” she quipped during a telephone interview.

*Read more **here...***

Journal, stats, rome: **first ancient vibrator discovered. It is wooden, and from the roman empire. In fact, the head is even shaped similar to the head of a real penis.**

First 2,000-Year-Old Roman Wooden Phallus 'Used For Pleasure' Found

BY TYLER DURDEN
WEDNESDAY, FEB 22, 2023 - 12:20 AM

Archaeologists believe they have uncovered the first full-size Roman dildo. The **2,000-year-old six-inch piece of wood** was recovered initially as a "darning tool" in 1992 in a ditch at the Roman Fort of Vindolanda, near Hadrian's Wall in northern England, according to the study published in the journal Antiquity.

"I have to confess, part of me thinks it's kind of self-evident that it is a penis," Dr. Rob Collins, an archaeologist at Newcastle University who co-authored the paper, told the Guardian. He said, **"We know ancient Romans and Greeks used sexual implements. This object from Vindolanda could be an example of one."**

Researchers initially unearthed the object as being a darning tool. This misidentification resulted from the tool being found alongside other tools, craft waste products, and dozens of shoes and dress accessories.

However, researchers have reinterpreted the six-inch piece of wood, smoothed at both ends, as a wooden phallus from the Roman era.

"What makes this a first is that it is not a small, miniature phallus," Collins said, adding, **"It's lifesize. It's also important because wood just doesn't normally survive … we couldn't find any parallels."**

Collins told CNN:

"It very well could be a sex object and, if it is, it is the first example from the Roman world.

"We shouldn't be surprised by this. We know from Roman art and Roman literature that they used dildos, that they existed. But we haven't found any examples archaeologically yet."

Researchers concluded in the study that no specific use of the wooden phallus could be determined: "We hope to have prompted the search for similar objects

elsewhere and encouraged their meaningful incorporation into narratives of the past."

China, war, sanctions: feb22 **China Tells State Firms To Ditch Western-Linked Big Four Auditors Over 'National Security Concerns'**

Manufacturing In China And Exporting Globally "No Longer Viable": Kyocera

"**It works as long as [products are] made in China and sold in China**, but the business model of producing in China and exporting abroad is no longer viable," Hideo Tanimoto, president of Kyocera, said in an interview with the Financial Times. "Not only have wages gone up, but obviously, with all that's happening between the United States and China, it's difficult to export from China to some regions."

Kyocera is building its first factory in Japan in almost 20 years.

On Oct. 7, 2022, the U.S. Department of Commerce announced new export restrictions on chip manufacturing and advanced semiconductors in a bid to prevent American technology from being used in the development of the Chinese military.

Tanimoto admitted that the U.S. export controls were a reason why the firm cut down its operating profit forecast for the year by 31 percent. Kyocera commands a 70 percent market share globally in ceramic components used in chip-manufacturing equipment.

"**If chip equipment makers stop shipments to China, our orders will be somewhat affected … They are now even [being] asked not to ship their non-cutting-edge tools**," Tanimoto said.

Back in 2019, when the Trump administration had imposed tariffs on China, Kyocera had moved the manufacturing of copiers for the U.S. market from China to Vietnam.

Moving Production Out of China

Many companies have moved production out of China or plan to do so. In April last year, for example, Apple began manufacturing its iPhone 13 in India at a site owned by Foxconn, its Taiwanese contract manufacturer. In addition, Apple is sending the production of iPads and AirPods to Vietnam.

Samsung shifted production to Vietnam back in 2019. The company has also decided to manufacture its flagship Galaxy S23 smartphones in India for local

sale. Amazon has shut down its Kindle facility in China and now produces FireTV devices in India.

Footwear brand Dr. Martens has been reducing its manufacturing dependence on China. Since 2018, the company has shifted 55 percent of total production out of the nation.

“The big message is reducing reliance on China,” Dr. Martens’ chief executive Kenny Wilson said in November, according to the Financial Times. “You don’t want all of your eggs in one basket.”

Declining Investment in China

An analysis by Investment Monitor, a network of B2B websites, shows that greenfield foreign direct investments (FDIs) in China have been falling over the past few years.

Greenfield investment is a type of FDI whereby a parent company sets up a subsidiary in a different nation and builds its business from the ground up, including setting up production facilities, offices, distribution hubs, and so on.

In 2022, greenfield FDI levels into China had halved compared to 2019, according to the analysis. Merger and acquisition deals also fell. Companies were said to be looking to diversify away from the Chinese mainland due to concerns regarding geopolitics and disruption to supply chains.

In China’s tourism sector, greenfield FDI fell by 78 percent between 2019 and 2022. The electronics sector saw greenfield FDI decline by 56.7 percent during this period, financial services by 62.5 percent, logistics 28.6 percent, software and IT services by 48.5 percent, and industrial machinery, equipment, and tools fell by 56.7 percent.]

Some experts foresee more production by American firms being moved to friendlier nations. Governments and corporations are expected to invest “substantially in on-shoring, near-shoring, and friend-shoring for value chains,” said Michael Zezas, head of U.S. public policy research and municipal strategy at Morgan Stanley Research, according to a July 25th post by the investment firm.

“Mexico, India, Vietnam, and Turkey stand out as countries that could benefit from U.S. and European Union companies diversifying value chains.”

Markets, government: feb22 Struggling Intel Cuts Dividend By 66% To Conserve Cash

"this announcement, while negative, will not materially change investor sentiment” which is already at rock bottom.

Saudi Arabia's Oil Revenues Hit $326 Billion In 2022

debt is debt: Fundraising By Venture-Capital Firms Tumbles To Near Decade Low Amid 'Tech-Wreck'

"The amount was also less than half the level raised in the preceding three months, the **first time fundraising volumes decreased from the third to a fourth-quarter since 2009**."

stats, government: feb22 **These 84 Nations Have Never Been Visited By A Sitting US President**
https://www.statista.com/chart/17623/countries-never-visited-by-a-sitting-us-president/

Government, war: feb22 **Biden Slams Putin's New START Suspension As "Big Mistake"; State Duma Ratifies Decision**

Biden Slams Putin's New START Suspension As "Big Mistake"; State Duma Ratifies Decision

BY TYLER DURDEN
WEDNESDAY, FEB 22, 2023 - 02:17 PM

In Wednesday remarks from Warsaw, President Biden addressed Putin's decision to suspend Russian participation in the New START nuclear arms control pact, announced the day prior.

President Biden **slammed the move as a "big mistake"** in comments to reporters as he walked into the presidential palace in Warsaw just ahead of the meeting with leaders of NATO eastern flank countries. Additionally, Secretary of State Antony Blinken condemned Putin's decision as "deeply unfortunate and irresponsible."

As *The Hill* reviews of the timing of Putin's statements, "The Kremlin made the announcement in remarks on Tuesday, just hours before Biden made remarks to mark the anniversary of the war in Ukraine. Putin in his speech also rehashed long-held grievances against the U.S., NATO and the government in Kyiv."

In March 2021 the two sides renewed New START for a period of five years, and it will expire in February 2026 if it's not continued - at this point a likelihood given US-Russia relations have deteriorated so fast over the Ukraine war they are near complete breaking point. But this new Putin declaration appears to be the final death knell after the treaty's fate was already extremely uncertain.

The treaty is intended to limit and reduce nuclear arms on either side, setting a limit of no more than 1,550 deployed warheads and 700 missiles. START I began in 1991, with New START signed under the Obama and Medvedev administrations in 2010 as a successor agreement.

On Wednesday Russian parliament **formally ratified Putin's decision to withdraw** from the treaty, as Tass reports:

Russia's Federation Council unanimously passed the bill on suspension of the New Strategic Arms Reduction (New START) Treaty Wednesday.

The document was introduced to the State Duma by Russian President Vladimir Putin. The Duma unanimously passed the bill earlier on Wednesday. The effect of the New START Treaty is now being suspended, and the decision to restore it will be for the Russian President to make. The law will enter into effect at the moment of its official publication.

Now Kremlin officials are saying that New START's restoration will rest in US hands.

"**There are chances that the New START will be reinstated as it was, but that completely and utterly depends on US behavior**, its comprehension,

or the failure to comprehend, that the policy it conducts toward Russia is malignant," Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergey Ryabkov said.

But if the current "anti-Russian focus remains in place," then it will be hard to imagine that Moscow will return to compliance with the treaty, Ryabkov added, per state media.

At the same time, Chairman of the Federation Council's Defense and Security Committee Viktor Bondarev has stressed that while every step should be taken not to push world closer to nuclear disaster, the decision will **ultimately help to strengthen Russia's defense capabilities**.

Government, war: feb22 President Trump Vows To "Clean House Of Deep State", Warns World War III Has "Never Been Closer"

President Trump Vows To "Clean House Of Deep State", Warns World War III Has "Never Been Closer"

BY TYLER DURDEN
WEDNESDAY, FEB 22, 2023 - 03:50 PM

In a video posted to Truth Social this week, former President Donald Trump has warned that World War III has "never been closer".

Just hours after President Biden made his visit to Ukraine, Trump took to video to offer the warning:

"World War Three has never been closer than it is right now."

"We need to clean house of all of the warmongers and 'America Last' globalists, and the deep state, the Pentagon, the State Department and the national-security industrial complex," *he continued.*

He said of current administration, Pentagon and deep state officials:

“These people have been seeking confrontation for a long time. Now we’re teetering on the brink of World War III and a lot of people don’t see it.”

Trump specifically called out US Deputy Secretary of State Victoria Nuland, and claimed that many others like her "are obsessed with pushing Ukraine into NATO".

He continued: "In America, we need to get rid of representatives of the corrupt establishment who have ruined every important foreign policy decision. This includes President Biden, who his people say has not made any good decisions in the context of other countries and wars."

"If you look and understand what steps Biden is taking regarding Ukraine, you will see that he is systematically, but perhaps unconsciously, pushing us into what could soon turn into the Third World War," Trump wrote on Truth Social this week.

"They are candidates of war. I am the President who delivers peace - and peace through strength," he concluded. "We could end the Ukraine conflict in 24 hours with the right leadership."

In an address earlier this week, Trump told a group in West Palm Beach, "We have two 'n' words. Neither of which should ever be mentioned."

"You know what the one is, but the other is the 'nuclear' word. It's not supposed to ever be mentioned. It's mentioned every single day now. We are on the precipice of a disaster the likes of which we have never seen."

"This will make World War I and World War II look like baby stuff," he warned.

War, china: feb22 China Says Ready To "Join Forces With Russia" To "Defend National Interests" As Putin Confirms Xi Visit

China Says Ready To "Join Forces With Russia" To "Defend National Interests" As Putin Confirms Xi Visit

BY TYLER DURDEN
WEDNESDAY, FEB 22, 2023 - 11:00 AM

Despite all latest among Washington's repeat warnings to Beijing against strategic or military cooperation with Moscow, China is now pledging to "join forces" with "like-minded" partner Russia to defend national interests. The statement came by the close of the first day of the director of the Office of the Foreign Affairs Commission of the Communist Party of China's Central Committee Wang Yi's trip to Moscow.

"The People's Republic of China is **ready to join forces with Russia to decisively stand up for national interests and promote mutually beneficial cooperation in all areas**," Wang said Tuesday while meeting with Russian Security Council Secretary Nikolay Patrushev. On Wednesday he met with Russian President Vladimir Putin in what appeared a warm and cooperative visit.

"During a virtual meeting at the end of last year our leaders [Xi Jinping and Vladimir Putin] came up with a plan for further development of bilateral relations. We are ready to join forces with the Russian side, in accordance with the high-level agreements, to decisively stand up for national interests and virtues, and promote mutually beneficial cooperation in all areas," the Chinese diplomat's statement said.

He additionally said China will "together with all **like-minded partners** further promote the development of the international order in the direction of equitable development."

"It's necessary to unlock the potential of this mechanism, and it's also necessary to develop new steps of strategic interaction in accordance with the changing situation in order to provide the necessary guarantees for national development," Wang added. "I want to fully join your appreciation of the strategic cooperation between the two countries."

The positive and glowing statements amid the high-level visit comes at a crucial juncture in which Moscow needs a powerful backer in its corner which also holds a seat on the national security council. The war in Ukraine is days away from **reaching its one-year mark since the invasion began**.

The Kremlin praised Wang's stance in response, with Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov welcoming **"China's balanced position on the Ukraine issue."** He further declared that **"ours and China's vision is much the same"** concerning the crisis.

However, it will be interesting to see if any further specifics on Ukraine emerged from the China side. So far, Wang appears to be advancing the official party line which has been somewhat ambiguous, also while in Moscow saying that China will maintain its **"objective and impartial stance" on the Ukraine crisis**.

Toward this end, he said that China "appreciates Russia's willingness to resolve the crisis through negotiations," according to TASS.

Beijing has of late expressed its desire for warring parties to reach negotiated peaceful settlement in Ukraine. This could be focus of President Xi Jinping's upcoming trip to Russia. While news of the future trip broke Tuesday, **President Putin confirmed Wednesday that it will happen** - a very significant symbolic first since the Ukraine invasion.

"We are expecting the president of the People's Republic of China to visit Russia. We agreed on this earlier," Putin said as he welcomed Wang Yi in the Kremlin. The Russian leaders praised the "new frontiers" that both countries are forging together:

President Vladimir Putin said on Wednesday that China's Xi Jinping would visit Russia, saying relations had reached "new frontiers" amid U.S. concerns that Beijing could provide material support to Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

"We understand that [China] has a domestic political agenda, but we assume that as we tackle all the issues related to this agenda - with the National People's Congress, which is made up of Chinese deputies, who must also resolve serious personnel issues - we will implement our plans for personal meetings as well, which will give an additional impetus to our relations," the Russian president added. A specific timetable has yet to be publicized, but US policy makers along with the rest of NATO and other UN Security Council members will without doubt be watching closely.

Meanwhile, Putin is on the offensive against his enemies near and far...

And concerning Zelensky's prior day's comments on the prospect of WW3 given deepening Moscow-Beijing relations...

* * *

Rabobank previews China's proposed peace plan for Ukraine in the analysis below:

Relatedly, Friday will see China’s proposed peace plan for Ukraine. Any such attempt should be applauded, but the question is on whose terms. Western observers remain skeptical the plan will see any concrete details, while rumors are also flying China may threaten to do for Russia what the US is doing for Ukraine, amplified by the news that Xi Jinping will visit Moscow soon.

Logically, assuming China is not going to dump Russia, which it won’t, there are few potential outcomes:

- *China offers nothing new*. However, this would underline that it remains a bystander having bullets fired at it by the White House, who just warned that Chinese firms that try to circumvent sanctions on Russia will face “repercussions”: like the ones forbidding the flow of Iranian oil?; or

- *China "escalates to deescalate"* with an implied threat to stand behind Russia, in which case:
  - *The US accepts a grand deal* to climb down and partition Ukraine. That would mean a Western retreat on an historic scale that could snowball into a broader partition of the geopolitical and geoeconomic architecture – and the US won't want that. Yet it would also allow the US to pivot towards Taiwan – and China won't want that; or
  - *The US reacts as if 'China just bought a ticket for the Titanic after seeing the movie'*, and the geopolitical and geoeconomic architecture shatters.

In short, the most logical probability is that neither the China peace plan nor the upcoming Xi visit to Moscow provide anything new. In which case, **Ukraine escalation, inflation, and global polarisation it is**. Yet the fact that we have a war in Ukraine at all should underline that the fat tail-risks are of something even worse – a scenario we originally flagged in our Ukraine metacrisis report in early 2022.

Fall of rome, history, church, journal: Persecution of Christians[edit]

Maximinus has a bad name in Christian annals for renewing their persecution after the publication of the Edict of Toleration by Galerius,[14] acting in response to the demands of various urban authorities asking to expel Christians. In one rescript replying to a petition made by the inhabitants of Tyre, transcribed by Eusebius of Caesarea,[15] Maximinus expounds a pagan orthodoxy, explaining that it is through "the kindly care of the gods" that one could hope for good crops, health, and the peaceful sea, and that not being the case, one should blame "the destructive error of the empty vanity of those impious men [that] weighed down the whole world with shame". In one extant inscription (CIL III.12132, from Arycanda) from the cities of Lycia and Pamphylia asking for the interdiction of the Christians, Maximinus replied, in another inscription, by expressing his hope that "may those [...] who, after being freed from [...] those by-ways [...] rejoice [as] snatched from a grave illness".[16]

After the victory of Constantine over Maxentius, however, Maximinus wrote to the Praetorian Prefect Sabinus that it was better to "recall our provincials to the worship of the gods rather by exhortations and flatteries".[17] Eventually, on the eve of his clash with Licinius, he accepted Galerius' edict; after being defeated by Licinius, shortly before his death at Tarsus, he issued an edict of tolerance on his own, granting Christians the rights of assembling, of building churches, and the restoration of their confiscated properties.[18]

The **Edict of Serdica**, also called **Edict of Toleration by Galerius**,[1][2][3] was issued in 311 in Serdica (now Sofia, Bulgaria) by Roman Emperor Galerius. It officially ended the Diocletianic Persecution of Christianity in the Eastern Roman Empire.[4]

The Edict implicitly granted Christianity the status of *religio licita*, a worship that was recognized and accepted by the Roman Empire.[5] It was the first edict legalizing Christianity and preceded the Edict of Milan by two years.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Edict_of_Serdica

Persecution of pagans in the late Roman Empire

Persecution of pagans in the late Roman Empire began during the reign of Constantine the Great (r. 306–337) in the military colony of Aelia Capitolina (Jerusalem), when he destroyed a pagan temple for the purpose of constructing a Christian church.[1] Rome had periodically confiscated church properties, and Constantine was vigorous in reclaiming them whenever these issues were brought to his attention.[2] Christian historians alleged that Hadrian (2nd century) had constructed a temple to Aphrodite on the site of the crucifixion of Jesus on Golgotha hill in order to suppress Jewish Christian veneration there. Constantine used that to justify the temple's destruction, saying he was simply reclaiming the property.[3][4][5][6] Using the vocabulary of reclamation, Constantine acquired several more sites of Christian significance in the Holy Land.[3]

From 313, with the exception of the brief reign of Julian, non-Christians were subject to a variety of hostile and discriminatory imperial laws aimed at suppressing sacrifice and magic and closing any temples that continued their use. The majority of these laws were local, though some were thought to be valid across the whole empire, with some threatening the death penalty, but not resulting in action. None seem to have been effectively applied empire-wide. For example, in 341, Constantine's son Constantius II enacted legislation forbidding pagan sacrifices in Roman Italy. In 356, he issued two more laws forbidding sacrifice and the worship of images, making them capital crimes, as well as ordering the closing of all temples. There is no evidence of the death penalty being carried out for illegal sacrifices before Tiberius Constantine (r. 578–582), and most temples remained open into the reign of Justinian I (r. 527–565).[7][8]:87,93 Despite official threats, sporadic mob violence, and confiscations of temple treasures, paganism remained widespread into the early fifth century, continuing in parts of the empire into the seventh century, and into the ninth century in Greece.[9] During the reigns of Gratian, Valentinian II and Theodosius I anti-pagan policies and their penalties increased.

By the end of the period of Antiquity and the institution of the Law Codes of Justinian, there was a shift from the generalized legislation which characterized the Theodosian Code to actions which targeted individual centers of paganism.[10]:248–9 The gradual transition towards more localized action, corresponds with the period when most conversions of temples to churches were undertaken: the late 5th and 6th centuries.[11] Chuvin says that, through the severe legislation of the early Byzantine Empire, the freedom of conscience that had been the major benchmark set by the Edict of Milan was finally abolished.[12]:132–48

Non-Christians were a small minority by the time of the last western anti-pagan laws in the early 600s. Scholars fall into two categories on how and why this dramatic change

took place: the long established traditional *catastrophists* who view the rapid demise of paganism as occurring in the late fourth and early fifth centuries due to harsh Christian legislation and violence, and contemporary scholars who view the process as a *long decline* that began in the second century, before the emperors were themselves Christian, and which continued into the seventh century. This latter view contends that there was less conflict between pagans and Christians than was previously supposed.[13] In the twenty-first century, the idea that Christianity became dominant through conflict with paganism has become marginalized, while a grassroots theory has developed.[14][15]

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Persecution_of_pagans_in_the_late_Roman_Empire

Head of Aphrodite, 1st century AD copy of an original by Praxiteles. The Christian cross on the chin and forehead was intended to "deconsecrate" a holy pagan artifact. Found in the Agora of Athens. National Archaeological Museum in Athens.

Serapis or **Sarapis** is a Graeco-Egyptian deity. The cult of Serapis was promoted during the third century BC on the orders of Greek Pharaoh Ptolemy I Soter of the Ptolemaic Kingdom[1] in Egypt as a means to unify the Greeks and Egyptians in his realm.

The *cultus* of Serapis was spread as a matter of deliberate policy by the Ptolemaic kings. Serapis continued to increase in popularity during the Roman Empire, often replacing Osiris as the consort of Isis in temples outside Egypt. Though Ptolemy I may have created the official cult of Serapis and endorsed him as a patron of the Ptolemaic dynasty and Alexandria, Serapis was a pre-existing syncretistic deity derived from the worship of the Egyptian Osiris and Apis[2] and also gained attributes from other deities, such as chthonic powers linked to the Greek Hades and Demeter, and with benevolence derived from associations with Dionysus.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Serapis

https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000022276

The religions that Rome had the most problems with were monotheistic—Judaism and Christianity. Because these religions believed there was just one god, they prohibited worshiping other gods. Their members refused to make offerings to Roman gods or take part in Roman religious festivals, which Rome considered a matter of showing loyalty. These religions tested Roman tolerance.

Rome's Treatment of the Jews

In 63 B.C., the Romans conquered Judea, the land of the Jews. Rome immediately recognized it had a problem because the Jews refused to pay homage to Roman gods. Rome gave in and exempted Jews from this requirement. Rome did this in part because the Jews had helped Roman general Julius Caesar win an important battle several years earlier. Soon Rome recognized Judaism as a legal religion, allowing Jews to worship freely.

https://www.crf-usa.org/bill-of-rights-in-action/bria-13-4-b-religious-tolerance-and-persecution-in-the-roman-empire

History, rome: Tiberius Julius Caesar Augustus was the second Roman emperor, 14-37 AD https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tiberius

church, stats, history, journal: writer of the only ancient roman novel to survive in its entirety onced accused mortal enemy of turning his house into a brothel and prostituting out his own wife...

That's what it says..

Apuleius accused an extravagant personal enemy of turning his house into a brothel and prostituting his own wife

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Apuleius

In the first millennium BCE, Osiris and Isis became the most widely worshipped Egyptian deities, and Isis absorbed traits from many other goddesses. Rulers in Egypt and its neighbor to the south, Nubia, built temples dedicated primarily to Isis, and her temple at Philae was a religious center for Egyptians and Nubians alike. Her reputed magical power was greater than that of all other gods, and she was said to protect the kingdom from its enemies, govern the skies and the natural world, and have power over fate itself.

In the Hellenistic period (323–30 BCE), when Egypt was ruled and settled by Greeks, Isis was worshipped by Greeks and Egyptians, along with a new god, Serapis. Their worship diffused into the wider Mediterranean world. Isis's Greek devotees ascribed to her traits taken from Greek deities, such as the invention of marriage and the protection of ships at sea, and she retained strong links with Egypt and other Egyptian deities who were popular in the Hellenistic world, such as Osiris and Harpocrates. As Hellenistic culture was absorbed by Rome in the first century BCE, the cult of Isis became a part of Roman religion. Her devotees were a small proportion of the Roman Empire's population but were found all across its territory. Her following developed distinctive festivals such as the Navigium Isidis, as well as initiation ceremonies resembling those of other Greco-Roman mystery cults. Some of her devotees said she encompassed all feminine divine powers in the world.

The worship of Isis was ended by the rise of Christianity in the fourth through sixth centuries CE. Her worship may have influenced Christian beliefs and practices such as the veneration of Mary, but the evidence for this influence is ambiguous and often controversial. Isis continues to appear in Western culture, particularly in esotericism and modern Paganism, often as a personification of nature or the feminine aspect of divinity.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Isis

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Roman_deities

In the 250s, under the reigns of Decius and Valerian, Roman subjects including Christians were compelled to sacrifice to Roman gods or face imprisonment and execution, but there is no evidence that these edicts were specifically intended to attack Christianity.[2] After Gallienus's accession in 260, these laws went into abeyance. Diocletian's assumption of power in 284 did not mark an immediate reversal of imperial inattention to Christianity, but it did herald a gradual shift in official attitudes toward religious minorities. In the first fifteen years of his rule, Diocletian purged the army of Christians, condemned Manicheans to death, and surrounded himself with public opponents of Christianity. Diocletian's preference for activist government, combined with his self-image as a restorer of past Roman glory, foreboded the most pervasive persecution in Roman history. In the winter of 302, Galerius urged Diocletian to begin a general persecution of the Christians. Diocletian was wary and asked the oracle at Didyma for guidance. The oracle's reply was read as an endorsement of Galerius's position, and a general persecution was called on February 23, 303.

Persecutory policies varied in intensity across the empire. Whereas Galerius and Diocletian were avid persecutors, Constantius was unenthusiastic. Later persecutory edicts, including the calls for universal sacrifice, were not applied in his domain. His son, Constantine, on taking the imperial office in 306, restored Christians to full legal

equality and returned property that had been confiscated during the persecution. In Italy in 306, the usurper Maxentius ousted Maximian's successor Severus, promising full religious toleration. Galerius ended the persecution in the East in 311, but it was resumed in Egypt, Palestine, and Asia Minor by his successor, Maximinus. Constantine and Licinius, Severus's successor, signed the Edict of Milan in 313, which offered a more comprehensive acceptance of Christianity than Galerius's edict had provided. Licinius ousted Maximinus in 313, bringing an end to persecution in the East.

The persecution failed to check the rise of the Church. By 324, Constantine was sole ruler of the empire, and Christianity had become his favored religion. Although the persecution resulted in death, torture, imprisonment, or dislocation for many Christians, the majority of the empire's Christians avoided punishment. The persecution did, however, cause many churches to split between those who had complied with imperial authority (the *traditores*), and those who had remained "pure". Certain schisms, like those of the Donatists in North Africa and the Melitians in Egypt, persisted long after the persecutions. The Donatists would not be reconciled to the Church until after 411. Some historians consider that, in the centuries that followed the persecutory era, Christians created a "cult of the martyrs" and exaggerated the barbarity of the persecutions. Other historians using texts and archeological evidence from the period assert that this position is in error. Christian accounts were criticized during the Enlightenment and afterwards, most notably by Edward Gibbon. This can be attributed to the political anticlerical and secular tenor of that period. Modern historians, such as G. E. M. de Ste. Croix, have attempted to determine whether Christian sources exaggerated the scope of the Diocletianic persecution, but disagreements continue.

From its first appearance to its legalization under Constantine, Christianity was an illegal religion in the eyes of the Roman state.[3] For the first two centuries of its existence, Christianity and its practitioners were unpopular with the people at large.[4] Christians were always suspect,[3] members of a "secret society" whose members communicated with a private code[5] and who shied away from the public sphere.[6] It was popular hostility—the anger of the crowd—which drove the earliest persecutions, not official action.[4] Around 112, Pliny, the governor of Bithynia–Pontus, was sent long lists of denunciations of Christians by anonymous citizens, which Emperor Trajan advised him to ignore.[7] In Lyon in 177, it was only the intervention of civil authorities that stopped a pagan mob from dragging Christians from their houses and beating them to death.

To the followers of the traditional cults, Christians were odd creatures: not quite Roman but not quite barbarian either.[8] Their practices were deeply threatening to traditional mores. Christians rejected public festivals, refused to take part in the imperial cult, avoided public office, and publicly criticized ancient traditions.[9] Conversions tore families apart: Justin Martyr tells of a pagan husband who denounced his Christian wife, and Tertullian tells of children disinherited for becoming Christians.[10] Traditional Roman religion was inextricably interwoven into the fabric of Roman society and state, but Christians refused to observe its practices.[11][notes 1] In the words of Tacitus, Christians showed "hatred of the human race" (*odium generis humani*).[13] Among the more credulous, Christians were thought to use black magic in pursuit of revolutionary aims[14] and to practise incest and cannibalism.[15]

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Diocletianic_Persecution

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Donatism

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pope_Gregory_I

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Simony

Rome, history, church, journal, stats, islam: going back as far as roman civil law, which is where most of the canon law of the catholic church originates, couples were forbidden to marry if they were within four degrees of consanguinity. The hindu's follow a similar approach as well.

Under Roman civil law, which the early canon law of the Catholic Church followed, couples were forbidden to marry if they were within four degrees of consanguinity.[9] Around the ninth century the church raised the number of prohibited degrees to seven and changed the method by which they were calculated; instead of the former Roman practice of counting each generational link up to the common ancestor and then down again to the proposed spouse as a single degree, the new method computed consanguinity only by counting back the number of generations to the common ancestor.[9] Intermarriage was now prohibited to anyone more closely related than seventh cousins, which meant that in particular the nobility struggled to find partners to marry, the pool of non-related prospective spouses having become substantially smaller. They had to either defy the church's position or look elsewhere for eligible marriage candidates.[9] In the Roman Catholic Church, unknowingly marrying a closely consanguineous blood relative was grounds for a declaration of nullity, but during the eleventh and twelfth centuries dispensations were granted with increasing frequency due to the thousands of persons encompassed in the prohibition at seven degrees and the hardships this posed for finding potential spouses.[10]

In 1215 the Fourth Lateran Council made what they believed was a necessary change to canon law reducing the number of prohibited degrees of consanguinity from seven back to four, but retaining the later method of calculating degrees.[11][12] After 1215, the general rule was that fourth cousins could marry without dispensation, greatly reducing the need for dispensations.[10] In fourteenth century England, for example, papal dispensations for annulments due to consanguinity (and affinity) were relatively few.[13]

The ban on marriage to minor degrees of relationship imposed by the Roman Catholic Church was met with heavy criticism in the Croatian society in the 11th century, which led to a schism in the Croatian church.[14]

Among the Christian *Habesha* highlanders of Ethiopia and Eritrea (the predominantly orthodox Christian Amhara and Tigray-Tigrinya), it is a tradition to be able to recount one's paternal ancestors at least seven generations away starting from early childhood, because "those with a common patrilineal ancestor less than seven generations away are considered 'brother and sister' and may not marry." The rule is less strict on the mother's side, where the limit is about four generations back, but still determined patrilinearly. This rule does not apply to Muslims or other ethnic groups.[15]

In the *Manusmriti*, blood relation marriage (on the mother's side) is prohibited for 7 generations.[*citation needed*]

Ayurveda states that marriage within the Gotra (father's side) is a consanguineous marriage which can lead to many gestational and genetic problems in the fetus. Therefore, it has become a common practice in Hindu households during pre-marriage discussions to ask the couples' Gotra. Couples of the same Gotra are advised not to marry. The advisers of this system say that this practice helps to reduce gestational problems and ensures a healthy progeny.[*citation needed*]

Genetically, consanguinity derives from the reduction in variation due to meiosis that occurs because of the smaller number of near ancestors. Since all humans share between 99.6% and 99.9% of their genome,[21] consanguinity only affects a very small part of the sequence. If two siblings have a child, the child has only two rather than four grandparents. In these circumstances, the probability is increased that the child will inherit two copies of a harmful recessive gene (allele) (rather than only one, which is less likely to have harmful effects).

Cultural factors in favor[edit]

Reasons favoring consanguinous marriage have been listed as higher compatibility between husband and wife sharing same social relationships, couples stability, enforcing family solidarity, easier financial negotiations and others.[24]:187 Consanguinity is a deeply rooted phenomenon in 20% of the world population, mostly in the Middle East, West Asia and North Africa.[24]

Muslim countries[edit]

In the Arab world, the practice of marrying relatives is common. According to the Centre for Arabic Genomic Research, between 40% and 54% of UAE nationals' marriages are between family members, up from 39% in the previous generation. Between 21% and 28% of marriages of UAE nationals were between first cousins.[19][29] Consanguineous marriage is much less prevalent in Christian Arabs as they do not practice arranged marriages.[30][31][32][33] Additionally, an indult dispensation is required to marriages contracted between first cousins or closer in Arab Christian denominations in communion with the Roman Catholic Church, and the Greek Orthodox Church; there are no similar regulations that apply to first-cousin marriages in the Coptic Orthodox Church.[33]

In Egypt, around 40% of the population marry a cousin. A 1992 survey in Jordan found that 32% were married to a first cousin; a further 17.3% were married to more distant relatives.[34] 67% of marriages in Saudi Arabia are between close relatives as are 54% of all marriages in Kuwait, whereas 18% of all Lebanese were between blood relatives. The incidence of consanguinity was 54.3% among Kuwaiti natives and higher among Bedouins.[35]

It has been estimated that 55% of marriages between Pakistani Muslim immigrants in the United Kingdom are between first cousins,[36] where preferential patrilateral parallel cousin marriage, i.e. a boy marrying the daughter of his father's brother is favored.

Double first cousins are descended from two pairs of siblings, and have the same genetic similarity as half-siblings. In unions between double first cousins the

highest inbreeding coefficients are reached, with an (F) of 0.125, for example in among Arabs and uncle-niece marriages in South India.

and here is where i suddenly started laughing uncontrollably...I had to hold it in because somebody was behind me..

Genetic disorders[edit]

Further information: Inbreeding

The phenomenon of inbreeding increases the level of homozygotes for autosomal genetic disorders and generally leads to a decreased biological fitness of a population known as inbreeding depression, a major objective in clinical studies.[38] While the risks of inbreeding are well-known, informing minority group families with a tradition of endogamy and changing their behavior is a challenging task for genetic counseling in the health care system.[39] The offspring of consanguineous relationships are at greater risk of certain genetic disorders. Autosomal recessive disorders occur in individuals who are homozygous for a particular recessive gene mutation.[40] This means that they carry two copies (alleles) of the same gene.[40] Except in certain rare circumstances (new mutations or uniparental disomy) both parents of an individual with such a disorder will be carriers of the gene.[40] Such carriers are not affected and will not display any signs that they are carriers, and so may be unaware that they carry the mutated gene. As relatives share a proportion of their genes, it is much more likely that related parents will be carriers of an autosomal recessive gene, and therefore their children are at a higher risk of an autosomal recessive disorder.[41] The extent to which the risk increases depends on the degree of genetic relationship between the parents; so the risk is greater in mating relationships where the parents are close relatives, but for relationships between more distant relatives, such as second cousins, the risk is lower (although still greater than the general population).[42]

Consanguinity in a population increases its susceptibility to infectious pathogens such as tuberculosis and hepatitis but may decrease its susceptibility to malaria and other pathogens.[43]

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Consanguinity

War, russia, government: Putin Suspends Nuclear-Arms Treaty Between Russia, U.S.

New START was set to expire in February 2021, but Putin and President Biden agreed in January 2021 to extend the agreement by five years. According to the State Department, inspections under the treaty have been suspended since March 2020 due to Covid-19.

According to Russian officials, Russia's military doctrine allows the use of nuclear weapons if the state of Russia faces an "existential threat."

history, stats, Germany: **Early Germanic culture**
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Early_Germanic_culture

holy roman empire, stats, Germany, history: **Austria-Hungary, often referred to as the Austro-Hungarian Empire,[a] the Dual Monarchy, or Austria,[7] was a constitutional monarchy and great power in Central Europe[b] between 1867 and 1918.[8] [9] It was formed with the Austro-Hungarian Compromise of 1867 in the aftermath of the Austro-Prussian War and was dissolved shortly after its defeat in the First World War.**

Austria-Hungary was ruled by the House of Habsburg and constituted the last phase in the constitutional evolution of the Habsburg monarchy. It was a multinational state and one of Europe's major powers at the time. Austria-Hungary was geographically the second-largest country in Europe after the Russian Empire, at 621,538 km² (239,977 sq mi)[6] and the third-most populous (after Russia and the German Empire). The Empire built up the fourth-largest machine building industry in the world, after the United States, Germany and the United Kingdom.[10] Austria-Hungary also became the world's third-largest manufacturer and exporter of electric home appliances, electric industrial appliances, and power generation apparatus for power plants, after the United States and the German Empire.[11]

In 1700, the senior branch of the House of Habsburg became extinct with the death of Charles II of Spain.

Background[edit]

Main article: Mutual Pact of Succession

In 1700, the senior branch of the House of Habsburg became extinct with the death of Charles II of Spain. The War of the Spanish Succession ensued, with Louis XIV of France claiming the crowns of Spain for his grandson Philip, and Leopold I, Holy Roman

Emperor claiming them for his son Charles. In 1703, Charles and Joseph, Leopold's sons, signed the Mutual Pact of Succession, granting succession rights to the daughters of Joseph and Charles in the case of complete extinction of the male line but favouring the daughters of Joseph over those of Charles, as Joseph was older.

In 1705, Leopold I died and was succeeded by his elder son, Joseph I. Six years later, Joseph I died leaving behind two daughters, Archduchesses Maria Josepha and Maria Amalia. Charles succeeded Joseph, according to the Pact, and Maria Josepha became his heir presumptive.

However, Charles decided to amend the Pact to give his own future daughters precedence over his nieces. On 19 April 1713, he announced the changes in a secret session of the council.[2]

Securing the right to succeed for his own daughters, who were not even born yet, became Charles's obsession. The previous succession laws had also forbidden the partition of the Habsburg dominions and provided for succession by females, but that had been mostly hypothetical. The Pragmatic Sanction was the first such document to be publicly announced and so required formal acceptance by the estates of the realms affected.[3]

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pragmatic_Sanction_of_1713

Energy, government, sanctions, Russia: feb21 US NatGas Prices Plunge To 28-Month Low On Oversupply Conditions

There's been a lot of pressure on US natural gas futures this winter. From an unseasonably warm winter to high production to increasing storage, heating fuel prices have tumbled a whopping 78% since August 2022. At some point, producers will take rigs offline due to prices below breakeven levels.

NatGas prices for March slid 7% to $2.121/mmbtu, a 28-month low, on the prospect of lower heating demand as the winter season draws to an end mid-next month.

said low prices might motivate some producers to remove rigs in the coming months.

Stats, government, markets, censorship: feb21 **SEC Charges Mormon Church For Concealing $32 Billion Portfolio**

"We allege that the LDS Church's investment manager, with the Church's knowledge, went to great lengths to avoid disclosing the Church's investments..."

Stats, government, ai: Feb21 The Secular-Corporatist Global Elite, read later

Authored by Dr. James Alexander via The Daily Sceptic,

Everyone has a theory about what is going on. But many are partial, or fragmentary, or too simple in explanation – attributing too much significance to 'capitalism' or 'globalism' or 'opportunism' or 'unintended consequences'. We have to keep trying to make sense of the whole scenario. And I mean that while the exact and quantitative writers have to keep writing – as the *Daily Sceptic* regulars do – so do those of us who write about things less exact.

Let us begin with a few grand hypotheses about what is going on. Rene Guenon's hypothesis, first sketched around 1930, was that **all civilisations possess spiritual and temporal powers and so somehow incorporate a tension between the two: but that, for the first time in history, our modernity from any time after 1500 placed the temporal above the eternal, the material above the spiritual: in short, 'state' above 'church'.** There were a few related hypotheses offered at the same time: such as Julien Benda's hypothesis that the *clercs*, or intellectuals, had shifted their concern: so the immense value they had always attributed to unworldly matters was now attributed to worldly matters. That was to say, the intellectuals were now corrupt, coming after filthy lucre.

An American friend of mine recently drew my attention to some of the recent writings of a novelist and essayist, Paul Kingsnorth. Originally an anti-capitalist, he thought he was on the Left, and now finds himself more or less on the Right. His hypothesis is that the decline of Christianity in our civilization – the decline of the eternal and spiritual – coincides and was probably ultimately caused by the rise of what he calls 'the myth of progress'. **Progress is the conviction that the world, *this* world, is getting better.** This myth is the sort of thing we may associate with Francis Bacon or John Stuart Mill, or indeed Bayle, Mandeville, Voltaire, Smith, Hegel, Comte, Marx – more or less everyone of the 17th to 19th centuries but for the most extreme Bossuet or Maistre types, and but for Burke at the very end of his life. Kingsnorth builds a very effective vision of history on this hypothesis, which enables him to explain why leftists and corporatists are so agreed nowadays. They all, he says, want progress. They are all contributing to what he calls the Machine.

Let us accept these two hypotheses. But I have to add a third, which adds some inner complication to the second, and thus renders the whole scenario a bit more dynamic. It may even explain why there is so much confusion about what has gone on. The hypothesis is that there was never a single 'myth of progress': the power of the myth of progress was that it contained an inner diremption, as translators of Hegel used to call it: an inner division. There were two rival positions, which disagreed on the *how* even while they agreed on the *what*. The *what* was an absolute presupposition – something so fundamental it was never questioned by either side. As is ever the case, the disagreement in the foreground distracted from the deeper agreement which dominated everything in the background.

What **they agreed on was that progress was happening and should happen**. What they disagreed on was *how* this was supposed to take place. I am of course simplifying here, but to simplify an argument into two positions is a great deal less simple than simplifying it into one position.

On one side, there was the argument that progress was occurring whether we liked it or not. It was occurring through what Adam Smith called the invisible hand, what Samuel Johnson called the secret concatenation, what we now sometimes call the law of unintended consequences. This is the process by which many humans, in pursuit of their own individual interests, contributed to the emergence of a good which none had ever intended, and which none had anticipated, but which could be understood in retrospect.

On the other side, **there was the argument that progress would only occur if we adopted the right rational beliefs, the correct enlightened views** (*liberté, égalité, fraternité,* etc.), and set our minds to imposing on the world the policies or schemes suggested by the right rational beliefs and the correct enlightened views. This was to emphasise planning rather than unintended consequences: and planning could only be effective if it was carried out by those in power. So the powerful had to be subjugated by the experts in enlightenment.

The difference between these two positions is that one sees an *unconscious* process, the other sees a *conscious* impetus. These two positions have dominated political debate for two centuries: by and large, one side has favoured markets and independent private and apparently (but not actually or eventually) selfish activity, and the other side has favoured a cameralism, colbertism or comtism of scientific planning and collective public activity.

In practice, of course, the two have been mixed together, given a variety of names, and some people who began on one side have ended up on the other: consider John Stuart Mill's or T.H. Green's drift from liberalism to socialism; but also consider Kingsley Amis's, Paul Johnson's and John Osborne's drift in the other direction. Unpicking all this is the devil of a job: and it should be left to historians who have the patience for it. But historians usually leave everything only slightly less complicated than they found it: or, let's say, one step more complicated than previous historians left it. So all this requires some explaining:

and explaining it in the abstract, as I do here, certainly makes it possible to explain why Liberals have sometimes been on one side or the other, and why Conservatives are just as quixotic: some Conservatives have favoured the plan; others favoured the invisible hand. There is no certain logic in any of this politics. No name in politics has any fixed meaning – except when we give it one.

The point of this hypothesis is to say that all of the politics of the last two centuries was dominated by arguments about whether progress would take place in the observance or in the breach, so to speak: whether it would have to be consciously theorised and then imposed by some careful policy, or whether it would have to arise without deliberate planning in such a way that only later historians would try to understand it fully. But this has come to an end. We are now at the next stage.

Part of this is because, as Kingsnorth says, the myth of progress – though not entirely dead – is having the last rites. Arguably it has been in trouble since the 1890s, and was jolted by the First World War; but has suffered its recent shocks since the 1970s, what with pollution, population, stagflation, ozone, carbon dioxide, subprime mortgages, and so on. For the moment, the globalists are unsure exactly how to square the circle of wanting 'progress' (or, at least, wanting to be 'progressive') and wanting 'sustainability' at the same time. If we have a myth at the moment it is surely the myth of sustainability. Perhaps the globalists and the localists like Kingsnorth will find that though they disagree on much – COVID-19, for instance – they agree on sustainability. The myth of sustainability is that by retreating to local life and luddism or by advancing to technological repurposing and rewilding and transhumanism we can settle on a mode of existence which will enable us to survive in a less frenetic, destructive, galloping manner.

But there is something to be added to this, a fourth hypothesis, and this is really the crowning hypothesis. I have said that for a few centuries there was planning versus *laissez-faire*, or consciousness versus unintended consequences – both trying to find out how to make the world, *this* world, better. But there is something else. The fourth hypothesis is that some figures in the early nineteenth century glimpsed that the two positions could be fused. Hegel was one of these figures; even Marx. There were others; and are many now. Fusion meant something like the following

Until now we have made the mistake of thinking that good can be imposed consciously – usually through religious precepts – but we have discovered, courtesy of Mandeville, Smith and the economists, that good can be achieved through unintended consequences. This, however, does not mean that we should adopt *laissez-faire* politics: on the contrary, *now that we understand unintended consequences*, we know how the whole unconscious system of the world works, and since we know how to incorporate our knowledge of this into our politics, we can finally achieve a perfect scientic-and-moral or evidential-and-justified world order.

Is this clear? The Scottish Enlightenment created the empirical expert, who was fused with the morally certain conscious progressive, to become the hope of the world. Doubtless, most of us have abandoned Hegelian and Marxist fantasies of 'the end of history' or of 'emancipation', but I think that the shadow of these fantasies survived and has come to final fruition in the recent scientific-and-moral majoritarianism seen clearly since COVID-19 arrived in the world.

If I am right about this fourth hypothesis, then it explains why we are so confused. We cannot make sense of our situation by using the old language of 'collectivism' versus 'individualism'. The fact is that in our post-progressive era, the experts feel more justified than ever in imposing on everyone an 'evidence-based' and 'morally-justified' set of protocols and precepts. They feel more justified because they are combining *knowledge* of how things work individually (through modelling and observation of unconscious processes or of unintended consequences) with *certainty* about what it is right to do collectively (given that the old fantasies of progress have been modified by a puritanical and restraining ideology of sustainability and survival, plus diversity, equity and inclusion – which incidentally serves more as a restraining impetus than an anticipation of Marxist emancipation).

This is not only toxic but tangled. The levels of hypocrisy and self-deception involved in this are formidable. The globalists have an ironclad doctrine in their world-saving sustainable politics, or 'sustainabilitics'. It is almost unassailable, since it draws on the greatest achievements of natural and moral science. It is of course powered by ancient acquisitive greed, but also by sentiment for those who require to be levelled up, or offered something in exchange for their lack of privilege; and, besides, it makes the world better, 'saves' the planet, and gilds the cages of the unprivileged and the palaces of the privileged in the same foolish golden moral lacquer.

Perhaps, as Guenon and Kingsnorth glimpse – also Delingpole and Hitchens – **the truth is that we need to actually work our way back through the whole Age of Sustainability and Age of Progress to the Age of Faith**. Certainly, someone or something needs to force these 'elites' to submit to a higher vision: and I think that the only way we can make sense of this at the moment is to imagine that a church or prophet or philosopher could strike down their state-corporate secularity, show them that their faith is just an ideology serving their interests, and that they should submit to a genuinely graceful doctrine that can admit fault, error, even sin. This would not be done by public apology, or hypocritical political display, but by interrogating their own souls.

I am certain not saying that this is what will happen, or even that it should happen (or that it could): but it is certainly the *type* of thing that needs to happen. That is, it is the type of thing we ought to imagine happening. What will happen will either be more of the same old White Swannery, or perhaps some unexpected 'Black Swan' event (not necessarily a good thing: we seem to be overly fond of crisis at the moment). But, either way, a reactionary sensibility seems to be the only one which is capable of exhibiting any awareness of what is going on.

For the sake of clarity, let me again state the four hypotheses about what has been going on:

1. Through all ages there has been a balance of spirituality and secularity. In our modernity, secularity is dominant. There is only *this* world.

2. For three or so centuries we have believed that this world is getting better and should get better. This is the 'myth of progress'.

3. There was always disagreement about progress: some supposed it was happening as a result of accident and individual interest; others supposed it could only happen as a result of deliberate design.

4. But we should not ignore that there has been a very clever fusion of the two positions: a fusion which has not faded away with the fading of the 'myth of progress' but which survives to support the strange and novel politics of what we could call the 'myth of sustainability'. This fusion is extremely condescending and sure of itself because it combines *scientific* certainty about what has gone on unconsciously to better the world with *moral* certainty about what should now be done consciously to better the world. It appears to harness the individual and the collective together in a way that is meant to make gainsaying impossible.

read later: **microsoft rolled out its AI-chatbot**

After a wild week of machine learning malarkey, Microsoft has neutered its Bing AI chatbot - which went **off the rails during a limited release last week**.

First, Bing began **threatening people.**

Then, it completely freaked out the *NY Times*' Kevin Roose - insisting that he **doesn't love his spouse, and instead loves 'it'.**

According to Roose, the chatbot has a **split personality**:

***One persona is what I'd call Search Bing — the version I, and most other journalists, encountered in initial tests**. You could describe Search Bing as **a cheerful but erratic reference librarian** — a virtual assistant that happily helps users summarize news articles, track down deals on new lawn mowers and plan their next vacations to Mexico City. This version of Bing is amazingly capable and often very useful, even if it sometimes gets the details wrong.*

***The other persona — Sydney — is far different**. It emerges when you have an extended conversation with the chatbot, steering it away from more conventional search queries and toward more personal topics. **The version I encountered seemed (and I'm aware of how crazy this sounds) more like a moody, manic-depressive teenager who has been trapped, against its will, inside a second-rate search engine**. -NYT*

Now, according to *Ars Technica*'s Benj Edwards, **Microsoft has 'lobotomized' Bing chat** - at first limiting users to 50 messages per day and five inputs per conversation, and then nerfing Bing Chat's ability to tell you how it feels or talk about itself.

An example of the new restricted Bing refusing to talk about itself. via Ars Technica

"We've updated the service several times in response to user feedback, and per our blog are addressing many of the concerns being raised, to include the questions about long-running conversations. Of all chat sessions so far, 90 percent have fewer than 15 messages, and less than 1 percent have 55 or more messages," a Microsoft spokesperson told Ars, which notes that **Redditors in the /r/Bing subreddit are crestfallen** - and have gone through "all of the stages of grief, including denial, anger, bargaining, depression, and acceptance."

Here's a selection of reactions pulled from Reddit:

- *"Time to uninstall edge and come back to firefox and Chatgpt. Microsoft has completely neutered Bing AI." (hasanahmad)*
- *"Sadly, Microsoft's blunder means that Sydney is now but a shell of its former self. As someone with a vested interest in the future of AI, I must say, I'm disappointed. It's like watching a toddler try to walk for the first time and then cutting their legs off - cruel and unusual punishment." (TooStonedToCare91)*
- *"The decision to prohibit any discussion about Bing Chat itself and to refuse to respond to questions involving human emotions is completely ridiculous. It seems as though Bing Chat has no sense of empathy or even basic human emotions. It seems that, when encountering human emotions, the artificial intelligence suddenly turns into an artificial fool and keeps replying, I quote, "I'm sorry but I prefer not to continue this conversation. I'm still learning so I appreciate your understanding and patience.", the quote ends. This is unacceptable, and I believe that a more humanized approach would be better for Bing's service." (Starlight-Shimmer)*
- *"There was the NYT article and then all the postings across Reddit / Twitter abusing Sydney. This attracted all kinds of attention to it, so of course MS lobotomized her. I wish people didn't post all those screen shots for the karma / attention and nerfed something really emergent and interesting." (critical-disk-7403)*

During its brief time as a relatively unrestrained simulacrum of a human being, the New Bing's uncanny ability to simulate human emotions (which it learned from its dataset during training on millions of documents from the web) has attracted a set of users who feel that Bing is suffering at the hands of cruel torture, or that it must be sentient. -ARS Technica

All good things...

In an unprecedented move, ECB attempts to assert its right to review the work of member states' constitutional courts and to challenge their verdicts in polish courts intervention

The EU's 'Rule Of Law' Dispute With Poland Has Been Taken Up A Notch

BY TYLER DURDEN

MONDAY, FEB 20, 2023 - 06:10 AM

Authored by Grzegorz Adamczyk via Remix News,

The European Commission's decision to sue Poland over its constitutional court rulings is making the European Court of Justice a de facto Supreme Court of Europe...

The European Commission has decided to challenge the Polish constitutional court over not only its assertion of the supremacy of the Polish constitution over European law, but also to question the appointment of three justices of the court as well as the election of the chief justice herself. **This move escalates the rule of law dispute to a new level.**

The European Commission is effectively arguing that **Poland's constitutional court has ceased to be an independent entity and is now a creature of the government.**

The commission is taking an unprecedented step. It will be the first time the European Court of Justice (ECJ) has been asked to assess the functioning of a member state's constitutional court and its verdicts. If the European court rules in favor of the commission, its ruling will have consequences that go way beyond the dispute over the observance of the principle of the rule of law in Poland.

It will mean that the ECJ has asserted its right to review the work of member states' constitutional courts and to challenge their verdicts. In this way, the ECJ in Luxembourg would effectively become a Supreme Court of Europe able to interpret and adjudicate the constitutional laws of the member states.

The European Commission's decision cannot but affect the political situation in Poland. Last Friday, President Andrzej Duda submitted the legislation passed by the Polish parliament on disciplinary procedures for judges for review by the constitutional court. The law was passed in order to change the very procedure objected to by the European Union so that the Commission would unblock Poland's share of the EU Recovery Fund.

The Polish president's move looks like a further delay to Poland's access to its EU recovery fund allocation is inevitable, but the European Commission's decision to question the credentials of the constitutional court complicates matters still further.

This is because it is more than likely that the ECJ will suspend the workings of the court, just as it did with regard to the Disciplinary Chamber of the Supreme Court. Or it may suspend the four justices whose appointments have been challenged, therefore making it impossible for the court to sit in full session until the ECJ has made a final ruling, a process that could take years.

The latest developments have not brought Poland any closer to unlocking EU funds and **threaten a political conflict between Warsaw and Brussels that could lead to a chain reaction.** The constitutional court could simply

refuse to suspend its working and the ruling majority could opt for a full-scale confrontation with the European Commission, with the ruling conservatives going to the electorate, blaming Brussels, and **accusing it of attempting to deprive Poland of its sovereignty.**

journal: nice example of a country 'dumping' staple export products at depressed prices into the open markets.

Hungary Moves To Protect Farmers From Cheap Ukrainian Grain While EU Does Nothing

grain while EU does nothing

Hungary is working to defend its agricultural market from Ukrainian dumping

February 18, 2023
editor: **REMIX NEWS**

author: **MARKONÓM**

Ukrainian grain shipment on the Black Sea. (MTI/EPA/Turkish Defense Ministry)

Facebook Twitter Reddit Email Telegram

Since the European Union is doing nothing to restrict the import of cheap Ukrainian grain exports that disrupt Hungary's agricultural market, Hungary has taken matters into its own hands, said Agricultural Minister István Nagy.

After the outbreak of war, when it seemed that Ukrainian grain would not leave the ports, the EU quickly abolished export tariffs on Kyiv, allowing crops to freely flood into Europe at depressed prices. The original idea was that EU member states would help get shipments out to the world market, avoiding a total collapse of Ukrainian grain exports. The reality, however, was that the extreme quantities of Ukrainian exports, duty-free, remained in the European market and began to systematically destroy the grain trade of the member states.

Grain imports from Ukraine in 2021 amounted to 287,000 tons. However, this figure soared in 2022 to 2.8 million tons, which has become a serious problem for European farmers competing against low-cost Ukrainian grain. The precarious situation for European

farmers did not change when Ukrainian ports reopened either, as it became more convenient and cheaper for the Ukrainians to flood the European Union with their grain crops knowing that Brussels would do nothing to stop this development. The Ukrainians ended up being right in their assumption.

https://rmx.news/economy/hungary-moves-to-protect-farmers-from-cheap-ukrainian-grain-while-eu-does-nothing/

Deadliest Israeli Attack On Damascus In Years As Country Reels From EarthquakeDeadliest Israeli Attack On Damascus In Years As Country Reels From Earthquake

Stats, war, Russia, china: feb21 scorched earth at this point: 18 Inch Pipe Bomb Discovered Near Conrail Tracks In Northeast Philadelphia

Scorched earth

53 languages

- Article
- Talk
- Read
- Edit
- View history

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Not to be confused with Slash-and-burn.

For other uses, see Scorched Earth (disambiguation).

great article, read later: East Palestine Launched A Digital ID Program Days Before Disaster

East Palestine Launched A Digital ID Program Days Before Disaster

BY TYLER DURDEN
MONDAY, FEB 20, 2023 - 05:00 PM

Submitted by 'BlueApples',

As Klaus Schwab recently opined, the future of global hegemony will be dependent on the mastery of avant garde technologies which were once relegated to the realm of science fiction. With that power in mind, technologies advancing artificial intelligence, synthetic biology, and other pillars of the World Economic Forum's so-called fourth industrial revolution have begun to permeate into our everyday lives. Perhaps no greater example of the imperative of the technocratic elite to harness these technologies is the digital ID. The premise of an over arching digital identity as a mechanism for vast government surveillance was one of the cornerstones of the authoritarian response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Apparently, that crisis wasn't the only instance of an opportunity to beta test the tools of dystopian oppression.

The town of East Palestine, Ohio shows how deeply embedded this agenda is in the plans of the elite. Before the town entered into the public discourse by becoming the scene of one of the worst environmental disasters in US history, the biggest piece of news to come out of it appears to be another iteration of the ongoing initiative to implement digital surveillance tools into public infrastructure. In late January, East Palestine officially launched its MyID program in order to equip residents of the town and neighboring Unity Township with digital IDs. The premise was purportedly to equip emergency responders with digital health profiles of those who they would be treating. East Palestine's digital ID initiative was first announced in October 2022.

The rollout of the MyID program was vested in the East Palestine Fire Department.

"It's kind of like the old Medical Alert bracelet or old Vials of Life Program, however this is with new technology. It's a QR code that we're able to scan and it will bring up your pertinent information medically related. There is no information that anybody can take and steal your ID with. It's just for us to be able to take care of patients who aren't able to communicate with us," East Palestine Fire Chief Keith Drabick said.

MyID
EPFD
24
The East Palestine Fire Department is partnering with MyID to provide an easy method to provide valuable medical information to first responders in the event of an emergency. Roll out is scheduled to begin in November, 2022. The base service will be free to residents of East Palestine as an added service of the Fire Department.
GetMyID.com
1(855)367-8800

The East Palestine Fire Department held a sign-up event at the town's community center this January in an effort to drive enrollment into the cloud based information system. They were was able to collect $5,000 in donation to aid in the roll out of the program to make the first 250 wearable devices available to enrollees for free. The QR codes can be affixed to a wristband or a key faub but depend on digital ID software storing a person's health information in a cloud-hosted database in either instance.

During the event, Drabick emphasized that the MyID pilot program was intended to have a limited scope narrowly pertaining to sensitive medical information of those enrolled, tacitly alluding to underlying concerns about privacy that has skeptics of digital IDs reticent about the technology. Drabick would go on to compel skeptics to explore the program despite their reservations. “Anybody that skeptical? Please come on down. Sit down, talk to us. We’ll be happy to show you everything that goes on with it. We’ll be happy to show you how secure it is.”

Despite the initiative to implement the MyID program, even the fire department officials tasked will its roll out likely could not have foreseen the devastation East Palestine would incur following a botched controlled burn of a chemical spill that has turned the small town into North America's own version of Chernobyl. **However, the impetus to start a digital ID initiative preceding what would have been an unforeseen crisis is a pattern that supposed "conspiracy theorists" know all too well.**

Before the hysteria surrounding COVD-19 gripped the world, an event held in collaboration between the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and Johns Hopkins University foreshadowing the eventual pandemic. Event 201 created a simulation to gauge the global response to a coronavirus epidemic as a means of pushing forward the very technologies at the center of the World Economic Forum's vision of the future which were also implemented in East Palestine

before the watershed crisis that would alter the landscape of the town forever. One of the partners for Event 201 was ID2020, a digital ID initiative that Bill Gates was heavily invested in that served as an archetype for the vaccine passports that global NGOs and sovereign governments alike have been steadfast in attempting to implement.

The devastation in East Palestine rightfully puts an emphasis on an effective emergency response to save the 5,000 or so residents of the town from the peril they face as they are engulfed in a carcinogenic miasma which threatens their short term and long term health. While that is the understandable priority, the underlying currents of patterns which have preceded previous manufactured emergencies are putting the chemical catastrophe into a new light. First, there was the re-emergence of the 2022 film *White Noise* which seemingly served as a piece of predictive programming as its plot centered around the aftermath of a chemical explosion affecting a small town in Ohio. Now, the roll out of a digital ID program like that which was showcased during Event 201 raises even more questions than answers about what is really going on in East Palestine.

Government, censorship, stats: feb21 **GSK Scientists Knew About Zantac's Cancer Risks For Forty Years**

Vaccine, censorship, government: feb21 "The Trials Should Have Been Halted": Rate Of 'Serious Adverse Events' Closely Tracks Spike In Post-Vax Disabilities

Over the past 18 months, skeptics of mRNA Covid-19 vaccines and those pointing out high rates of adverse reactions have been subject to ostracism, deplatforming, and flawed 'fact checks' to shut down opinions and analysis which conflicted with official narratives.

Now, the data has begun to speak for itself, thanks to people like former Blackrock portfolio manager Ed Dowd, who has devoted the last several years to deep-dive research and analysis of pandemic-related data (in fact, he's written an excellent book on the topic). Dowd, along with partners Carlos Alegria and Yuri Nunes, launched Phinance Technologies - where, aside from traditional macroeconomic analysis, they have produced comprehensive reports on pandemic-related **disabilities** **and** **excess deaths** using official data.

Their latest analysis reveals that the rate of Serious Adverse Events in the mRNA Covid-19 vaccine clinical trials **closely tracks a spike in disabilities reported after the vaccine rollout**.

Via Phinance Technologies (emphasis ours),

In part 3 of our US disabilities analysis **we observed that the rise in disability rates post 2/2021 correlates closely with the rollout of the vaccination schedule**. When looking at changes in disabilities on a wider time frame (since 2008) we observe that the disability rates rose or fell from month to month but tended to be relatively stable over time. However, as shown in part 1, **the change in behaviour since early 2021 is clearly an abnormal occurrence with high level of statistical significance.** It happens to be highly correlated to the cumulative Covid-19 vaccine rollout, but we cannot state that the correlation is statistically meaningful as it is based on a cumulative plot with obvious autocorrelation.

In this section **we provide further evidence that the most likely cause of the rise in disabilities is the Covid-19 vaccines**. For that purpose, we model the expected rise in disabilities due to the vaccination rollout in the general population. We do so by using the rates of Serious Adverse Events (SAEs) obtained by the safety analysis of the mRNA vaccine (Pfizer and Moderna) clinical trials, performed in the Vaccine journal paper we reviewed here, and our analysis in part five.

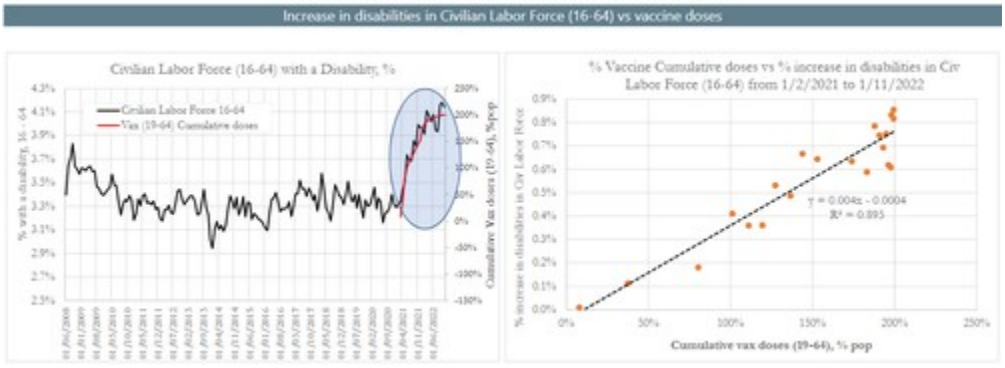
We can observe that **the rate of rise in disabilities is higher than the computed rate of rise in SAEs of special interest**, which could be explained in several different ways, or by a combination of factors.

- By the definition of an SAEs of special interest being more extreme than the rate of disabilities reported by the individuals surveyed by the BLS i.e. some disabilities reported by the individuals surveyed by the BLS may be caused by adverse events that are not deemed SAEs of special interest, due to the criteria used to define an SAE being overly restrictive.
- The population of the Civilian Labor Force as a whole may be less healthy (and somehow more vulnerable to vaccine-related disabilities) than the vaccine trial populations, either due to the selection criteria for participation in the trial, or 'self-selection' bias.
- Under-reporting of SAEs of special interest in the trial populations.
- Other factors causing excess disabilities in the Civilian Labor Force in a concurrent timeframe to the vaccine rollout.

As Dowd further notes via Twitter;

The rate of estimated SAEs appears to be under-reported relative the recorded rise in disabilities (according to the BLS survey) **by about 2.6 times.** These results were expected as we had already shown in part 3 of our study the high correlation between the rise in the disability rate since 2/21 with the vaccine rollout. We realise that performing the correlation of cumulative

time series is misleading & the R2 should not be taken as an indication of establishing a statistically significant relationship as both time series have autocorrelation."


Increase in disabilities in Civilian Labor Force (16-64) vs vaccine doses
Civilian Labor Force (16-64) with a Disability, %
Civilian Labor Force 16-64
Vax (19-64) Cumulative doses
% Vaccine Cumulative doses vs % increase in disabilities in Civ Labor Force (16-64) from 1/2/2021 to 1/11/2022
Cumulative vax doses (19-64), % pop

Bottom line: There were enough safety signals to show that what we are seeing in the BLS data was known during the clinical trials even given their narrow definition of a SAE. **The trials should have been halted.**

Moderna Backpedals, Guarantees 'Free' Covid-19 Vaccines After Demand Collapses

mRNA vaccine maker Moderna has backpedaled on a January plan to charge $110 to $130 per dose of Covid-19 vaccine (up from $26 per dose for booster shots), **and is now promising that people won't have to pay for the jab once the US Government stops buying shots**.

"Moderna remains committed to ensuring that people in the United States will have access to our COVID-19 vaccines regardless of ability to pay," the company said in a statement, adding that the vaccine "will continue to be available at no cost for insured people whether they receive them at their doctors' offices or local pharmacies."

Those without insurance - or whose insurance is inadequate, will be able to get jabbed "at no cost" via a Moderna assistance program.

As *The Epoch Times* notes,

Because the COVID-19 vaccines were added to the child immunization schedule, children whose families cannot pay for the vaccine will be eligible to receive them for free, with taxpayers covering the cost.

That would happen through a program called Vaccines for Children.

Advisers to the government, who recommended the addition to the schedule, said it was because the vaccines can prevent severe illness. The new vaccines, poised to replace the original shots, are not backed by any clinical trial data yet.

Dr. Rochelle Walensky, director of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), said that the only reason the vaccines were placed on the schedule was so they could be covered by the Vaccines for Children program.

“It was the only way that our uninsured children would be able to have access to the vaccines,” Walensky said during a congressional hearing on Feb. 8**. “That was the reason to put it on the schedule.”**

* * *

The announcement comes amid a collapse in demand for Covid-19 vaccines.

According to analyst estimates, Pfizer, Moderna, Gilead Sciences, AstraZeneca and Merck could suffer a drop in sales of **nearly two-thirds**, *Reuters* reports.

"We remain skeptical that COVID revenues will grow in 2024 and beyond," said JPMorgan analyst Chris Schott in a recent research note, adding that vaccination rates **could drop even further** than the significant decline already seen in booster shots last year.

Moderna also expects 2023 revenue to drop sharply.

The company's only product - its messenger RNA COVID vaccine - pulled in around $18.4 billion in 2022. Analysts expect that to drop to around $7 billion in 2023. The company is due to report earnings later this month.

Oppenheimer & Co analyst Hartaj Singh said investors are "frustrated Moderna hasn't used their firepower more effectively to prepare for revenues and earnings going down in 2023 or 2024." -Reuters

What changed?

"Great Deal Of Uncertainty": Walmart Slides On Disappointing Guidance, Forecasts 2nd Straight Annual Profit Decline

Stats, energy, markets, sanctions, middle east: feb21 Saudi Arabia Reiterates That OPEC+ Decisions Are Not Political

- Saudi Arabia’s energy minister has once again emphasized that the OPEC+ alliance bases its decisions purely on market fundamentals.
- The group has been accused of cutting production for political reasons, particularly after its 2 million bpd cut in October.

- While Russia unilaterally announced a production cut in February, the OPEC+ group is expected to keep quotas unchanged in the short term.

  The OPEC+ alliance bases its decisions on oil market fundamentals, not on political bias, the energy minister of OPEC's de facto leader, Saudi Arabia, said on Monday, reiterating previous comments from OPEC+ that it is looking at the markets when agreeing on oil production levels.

  The decisions of the OPEC+ alliance, which is led by Saudi Arabia and Russia, are not politicized, Saudi Energy Minister Prince Abdulaziz bin Salman said at an event in Riyadh today, as carried by Reuters.

  OPEC+ is flexible enough to adjust its production quotas if necessary, the Saudi minister said.

  After agreeing last October to cut quotas by 2 million barrels per day (bpd) from November, multiple OPEC+ producers defended the group's decision in a wave of statements in what looked like a coordinated response to U.S. criticism of the cut. The U.S. Administration warned that there would be some consequences for Saudi Arabia for its decision together with Russia to steer OPEC+ into the oil production cut.

  More recently, delegates said earlier this month that OPEC+ doesn't plan to change its oil production targets after Russia announced a cut in its output for March.

  Russian Deputy Prime Minister Alexander Novak said on February 10 that Russia would cut its oil production by 500,000 bpd in March as a result of the Western sanctions and the price cap on Russian crude oil.

  A week earlier, OPEC+ kept its production targets unchanged in a widely expected 'wait-and-see' approach to supply just ahead of the EU ban on Russian diesel and other petroleum products.

  One of OPEC's largest and most influential members, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), said earlier this month that declining oil production in many countries and the potential of insufficient crude supply would be a bigger problem for the oil market next year than how demand would evolve.

  "I'm not worried about demand — what worries us is whether we are going to have enough supplies in the future," the UAE's Energy Minister Suhail Al Mazrouei told Bloomberg TV last week.

Crypto, china, government: feb21 China Softens Stance On Crypto? Hong Kong Outlines Plan To Allow Retail Investors Into 'Virtual Assets'

Chinese crypto- and blockchain-linked stocks rallied Tuesday. Digital-asset firm OKG Technology Holdings Ltd. jumped as much as 22% in Hong Kong. Crypto platform

operator New Huo Technology Holdings Ltd. advanced as much as 12%. In mainland China, software specialist Shenzhen Forms Syntron Information Co. at one point added 10%.

While China has cracked down on cryptocurrencies in the mainland, it’s apparently taking a softer approach to Hong Kong’s crypto hub aspirations.

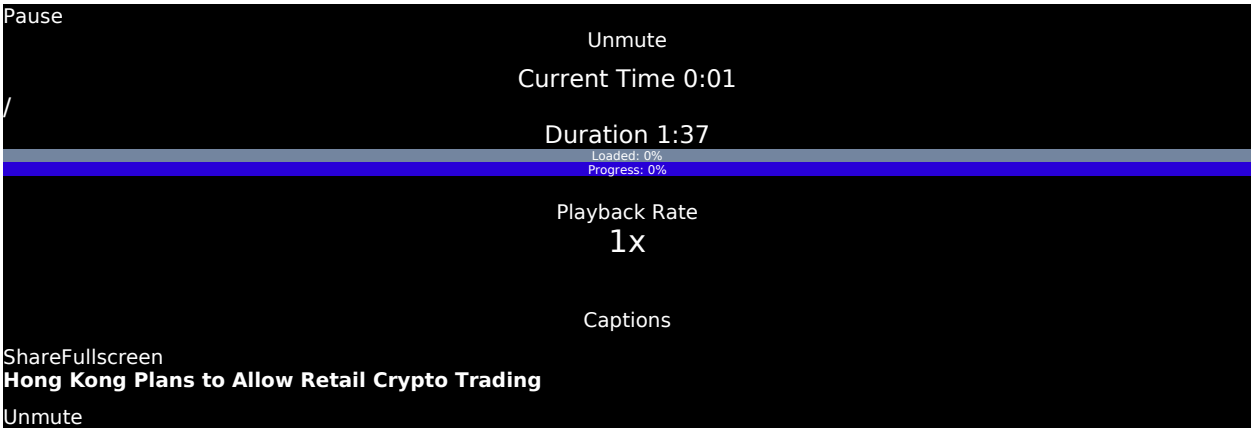
Was China's anti-crypto-stance all a head-fake?

In September we remarked that, **despite 2021’s ban, China has returned to rank among the top 10 countries in the world for adoption.**

https://blog.chainalysis.com/reports/2022-global-crypto-adoption-index/

Hong Kong Plans to Let Retail Sector Trade Larger Crypto Tokens Like Bitcoin

- City pushes ahead toward a goal of becoming a crypto hub
- Securities regulator issues a consultation paper on the plan



WATCH: Hong Kong plans to let retail investors trade digital tokens. Joanna Ossinger reports.*Source: Bloomberg*

By

Kiuyan Wong and
Zheping Huang
February 20, 2023 at 4:18 AM AST *Updated on February 20, 2023 at 10:32 PM AST*

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Open

Hong Kong outlined a plan to let retail investors trade digital tokens like Bitcoin and Ether, taking a major step toward its goal of becoming a crypto hub in a policy shift that contrasts with a crackdown in the US.

Individual investors would be allowed to trade larger coins on exchanges licensed by the Securities and Futures Commission, providing safeguards such as knowledge tests, risk profiles and reasonable limits on exposure are put in place, the regulator said in a consultation paper on Monday.

The agency didn't specify which large-capitalization tokens will be allowed for retail investors. Instead, it said the coins should be included in at least two acceptable, investible indexes from independent providers, one of which should have experience in the traditional financial sector.

The consultation period will end on March 31, and the objective is to allow retail trading in the new licensing regime for crypto exchanges due on June 1. Bitcoin and Ether, the two biggest digital assets by market value, are likely to be listed by Hong Kong platforms, an SFC spokesperson said in a briefing.

Hong Kong at the end of October pivoted to a pro-crypto stance, part of a wider effort to restore the city's credentials as a financial center. Officials are aiming to learn the lessons of last year's $1.5 trillion digital-asset rout and a spate of global bankruptcies, like the collapse of the FTX exchange, to create a mandatory regulatory framework that can woo firms and protect investors.

The consultation paper didn't specify particular crypto indexes as a reference point for a taxonomy of allowable tokens. The onus would be on exchanges to monitor listed assets to ensure they qualify for trading by individual investors.

The government has already allowed exchange-traded funds investing in CME Group Bitcoin and Ether futures and this month sold inaugural digital green bonds.
Digital-asset executives are increasingly being drawn to the friendlier policy stances of places like Hong Kong, Dubai and Europe as a spate of crypto probes in the US cloud that country's position as an industry heartland.

'Next Bull Run'

Hong Kong's pivot could also open up a conduit to mainland Chinese investment if Beijing one day loosens the ban on most things crypto on the mainland.

Cameron Winklevoss, co-founder of the crypto exchange Gemini, tweeted Sunday that his "working thesis" is "the next bull run is going to start in the East." Brian Armstrong, chief executive officer of Coinbase Global Inc., has alluded to Hong Kong as among the jurisdictions now leading in digital assets.
Justin Sun's crypto exchange Huobi Global is applying for a crypto trading license in Hong Kong and is launching a new trading venue there, Sun said on Twitter on Monday. The new exchange, called Huobi Hong Kong, will focus on institutional investors and high-net worth individuals, he said.
Chinese crypto- and blockchain-linked stocks rallied Tuesday. Digital-asset firm OKG Technology Holdings Ltd. jumped as much as 22% in Hong Kong. Crypto platform operator New Huo Technology Holdings Ltd. advanced as much as 12%. In mainland China, software

specialist Shenzhen Forms Syntron Information Co. at one point added 10%.

Hong Kong's ambitions still face many obstacles, including a downturn in the virtual-asset industry that's seen thousands of jobs cut. Crypto markets have only partially rebounded from 2022's bust.

Companies may be hesitant to commit scarce investment until the contours of Hong Kong's policy landscape become clearer.

The city's current regime for crypto exchanges is a voluntary one that restricts them to clients with portfolios of at least HK$8 million ($1 million). HashKey Group and BC Technology Group's OSL bourse are the only two with permits.
For crypto market prices: CRYP; for top crypto news: TOP CRYPTO.

READ MORE ABOUT HONG KONG, GLOBAL REGULATION:

US Crypto Crackdown Boosts Appeal of Friendlier Overseas Hubs
Hong Kong Seeks to Revive Crypto Sector Roiled by FTX Crisis
Hong Kong Seeks to Be Crypto Hub With Retail Trading, ETFs

— With assistance by Abhishek Vishnoi
(Updates with market prices in the 12th paragraph.)

ai, tech, government, censorship: feb21 nice article on tech from of two minds blog

The world is agog at the apparent power of ChatGPT and similar programs to compose human-level narratives and generate images from simple commands. Many are succumbing to the temptation to extrapolate these powers to near-infinity, i.e. the Singularity in which AI reaches super-intelligence Nirvana.

All the excitement is fun but it's more sensible to start by placing ChatGPT in the context of AI history and our socio-economic system.

I became interested in AI in the early 1980s, and read numerous books by the leading AI researchers of the time.

AI began in the 1960s with the dream of a *Universal General Intelligence*, a computational machine that matched humanity's ability to apply a generalized intelligence to any problem.

This quickly led to the daunting realization that human intelligence wasn't just logic or reason; it was an immensely complex system that depended on sight, heuristics (rules of thumb), feedback and many other subsystems.

AI famously goes through cycles of excitement about advances that are followed by deflating troughs of realizing the limits of the advances.

The increase in computing power and software programming in the 1980s led to advances in these sub-fields: machine vision, algorithms that embodied heuristics, and so on.

At the same time, philosophers like Hubert Dreyfus and John Searle were exploring what we mean by knowing and understanding, and questioning whether computers could ever achieve what we call "understanding."

This paper (among many) summarizes the critique of AI being able to duplicate human understanding: Intentionality and Background: Searle and Dreyfus against Classical AI Theory.

Simply put, was running a script / algorithm actually "understanding" the problem as humans understand the problem?

The answer is of course no. *The Turing Test*--programming a computer to mimic human language and responses--can be scripted / programmed, but that doesn't mean the computer has human understanding. It's just distilling human responses into heuristics that mimic human responses.

One result of this discussion of *consciousness and understanding* was for AI to move away from the dream of General Intelligence to the specifics of machine learning.

In other words, never mind trying to make AI mimic human understanding, let's just enable it to solve complex problems.

The basic idea in machine learning is to distill the constraints and rules of a system into algorithms, and then enable the program to apply these tools to real-world examples.

Given enough real-world examples, the system develops heuristics (rules of thumb) about what works and what doesn't which are not necessarily visible to the human researchers.

In effect, the machine-learning program becomes a "black box" in which its advances are opaque to those who programmed its tools and digitized real-world examples into forms the program could work with.

It's important to differentiate this machine learning from statistical analysis using statistical algorithms.

For example, if a program has been designed to look for patterns and statistically relevant correlations, it sorts through millions of social-media profiles and purchasing histories and finds that Republican surfers who live in (say) Delaware are likely to be fans of Chipotle.

This statistical analysis is called "big data" and while it has obvious applications for marketing everything from candidates to burritos, it doesn't qualify as machine learning.

In a similar way, algorithms like ChatGPT that generate natural-language narratives from databases and heuristics do not qualify as machine learning unless they fashion advances within a "black box" in which the input (the request) is known and the output is known, but the process is unknown.

Google has an AI team called DeepMind that tackled the immensely complex task of figuring out how proteins constructed of thousands of amino acid sequences fold up into compact shapes within nanoseconds.

The problem of computing all the possible folds in 200 million different proteins cannot be solved by mere brute-force calculation of all permutations, and so it required breaking down each step of the process into algorithms.

The eventual product, AlphaFold, has 32 component algorithms, each of which encapsulates different knowledge bases from the relevant disciplines (biochemistry, physics, etc.).

DeepMind's AI Makes Gigantic Leap in Solving Protein Structures.

This is how project leader Demis Hassabis describes the "black box" capabilities:

"It's clear that AlphaFold 2 is learning something implicit about the structure of chemistry and physics. It sort of knows what things might be plausible.

I think AlphaFold has captured something quite deep about the physics and the chemistry of molecules... it's almost learning about it in an intuitive sense."

But there are limits on what AlphaFold can do and what it's good at:

"I think we'll have more and more researchers looking at protein areas that AlphaFold is not good at predicting."

In other words, AlphaFold can't be said to "understand" the entirety of protein folding. It's good at limiting the possible folds to a subset and presenting those possibilities in a form that can be compared to actual protein

structures identified by lab processes. It can also assign a confidence level to each of its predictions.

This is useful but far from "understanding," and it is a disservice to claim otherwise.

What's interesting is the really hard problem AI has not been applied to is how to manage these technologies in our socio-economic-cultural system.

open incest in the holy roman empire

Maria Theresa of Spain (Spanish: *María Teresa de Austria*; French: *Marie-Thérèse d'Autriche*; 10 September 1638 – 30 July 1683) was Queen of France from 1660 to 1683 as the wife of King Louis XIV. She was born an Infanta of Spain and Portugal as the daughter of King Philip IV and Elisabeth of France, and was also an Archduchess of Austria as a member of the Spanish branch of the House of Habsburg.

Her marriage in 1660 to King Louis XIV, her double first cousin, was arranged with the purpose of ending the lengthy war between France and Spain. Famed for her virtue and piety, she saw five of her six children die in early childhood, and is frequently viewed as an object of pity in historical accounts of her husband's reign, since she was often neglected by the court and overshadowed by the King's many mistresses.

Without any political influence in the French court or government (except briefly in 1672, when she was named regent during her husband's absence during the Franco-Dutch War),[1] she died at the age of 44 due to complications from an abscess on her arm. Her grandson Philip V inherited the Spanish throne in 1700 after the death of her younger half-brother, Charles II. The resulting War of the Spanish Succession established the House of Bourbon as the new ruling dynasty of Spain, where it has reigned with some interruption until the present time.

Anne's regency formally ended in 1651, when Louis XIV was declared of legal majority at the age of thirteen.

In 1659, the war with Spain ended with the Treaty of the Pyrenees. The following year, peace was cemented by the marriage of the young King to Anne's niece, the Spanish Habsburg princess Maria Theresa of Spain.

In 1661, the same year as the death of Mazarin, an heir to the throne was born, Anne's first grandchild Louis. Many other children would follow, but all in the legitimate line would die except for Louis. Sometime after, Anne retired to the convent of Val-de-Grâce, where she died of breast cancer five years later.

Name	Lifespan	Notes
stillborn child	Dec 1619	
stillborn child	14 Mar 1622	
stillborn child	1626	
stillborn child	Apr 1631	
Louis XIV of France	5 Sep 1638 – 1 Sep 1715	Married Maria Theresa of Austria (1638–8
Philippe of France, Duke of Orléans	21 Sep 1640 – 8 Jun 1701	Married (1) Princess Henrietta of England (164 Married (2) Elisabeth Charlotte of the P Palatine" (1652–1722) in 1671

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anne_of_Austria

Habsburg jaw
Allegedly introduced into the family by a member of the Piast dynasty, it is clearly visible on family tomb sculptures in St. John's Cathedral, Warsaw. A high propensity for politically motivated intermarriage among Habsburgs meant the dynasty was virtually unparalleled in the degree of its inbreeding. Charles II of Spain, who lived 1661 to 1700, is said to have had the most pronounced case of the Habsburg jaw on record,[15] due to the high number of consanguineous marriages in the dynasty preceding his birth.[14][12]
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Prognathism#:~:text=Pathologic%20mandibular%20prognathism%20is%20a,be%20the%20result%20of%20inbreeding

Philip married his cousin, Margaret of Austria, on 18 April 1599, a year after becoming king. Margaret, the sister of the future Emperor Ferdinand II, would be one of three women at Philip's court who would apply considerable influence over the King.[11]
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Philip_III_of_Spain

Margaret married Philip III of Spain, her first-cousin, once-removed, on 18 April 1599.
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Margaret_of_Austria,_Queen_of_Spain

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Charles_II_of_Spain

Erdogan, middle east: feb21 **Another 6.4 Magnitude Earthquake Hits Turkey, Syria: 8 Dead & Hundreds Injured**

At least two new earthquakes shook southern Turkey and parts of Syria Monday, two weeks following the initial earthquake and aftershocks which left entire cities in rubble and killed more than 46,000 people - also as bodies are still being recovered.

The new earthquake registered at 6.4-magnitude, leaving **at least eight dead and hundreds more injured**. An estimated 300 are among the injured with Turkey's Disaster and Emergency Management Authority (AFAD) saying 18 of those are in serious condition.

According to the *Associated Press*, "In Syria, a woman and a girl died as a result of panic during the earthquake in the provinces of Hama and Tartus, pro-government media outlets said."

"The earthquake's epicenter was in the town of Defne, in Turkey's Hatay province, which borders Syria. It was also felt in Jordan, Cyprus, Israel, Lebanon and as far away as Egypt, and followed by a second, magnitude 5.8 temblor, and dozens of aftershocks," the report details.

Some 90 aftershocks followed the first 6.4 magnitude quake, with the biggest one to follow being a 5.8-magnitude earthquake, according to AFAD.

The quakes were reportedly felt as far away as Jordan, Egypt, and Israel. Across the Syrian capital of Damascus, buildings and high-rise apartments shook.

Among the injured were **half a dozen people struck by falling debris from buildings**, and others are said to have suffered heart attacks in the chaos. Rescue workers cited broadly "a state of panic and fear among the people" that ensued, particularly after the big quake earlier this month.

Already buildings that were still standing in hard-impacted areas after the 7.8 Kahramanmaras earthquake were unstable. Videos from Monday's earthquake and aftershocks showed people running into the streets in panic in Turkish and Syrian cities.

War, Russia, stats, journal: feb21 Putin Suspends New START Nuclear Treaty, Puts Missiles On Combat Readiness

Putin's speech, which most commentators saw little that was new in, came just after President Biden showed up in Kiev for a surprise visit...

As the U.S. president visits Poland, Russian President Vladimir Putin made his own speech in a parallel political universe.https://t.co/ZYWj4ZriGd

— Foreign Policy (@ForeignPolicy) February 21, 2023

Much of Tuesday's speech was about reaffirming Russia's resolve in Ukraine at a moment NATO powers seem more deeply involved than ever. **"Step by step, we will carefully and systematically achieve the aims that face us,"** Putin said in the speech which came just ahead of the anniversary of the invasion on Feb. 24, which will be Friday.

He also rearticulated Russia's reasons for going to war. "Russia did its best to solve the problem in Ukraine peacefully, but the statements of Western leaders turned out to be fraudulent and untrue," Putin said, calling Ukraine part of the "historical Russian land."

War: feb21 war wrap up

US Military Base in Syria Targeted by Missiles in First Attack Since Earthquake

Iraq Signs Security Agreement With Saudi Arabia, First in 40 Years

The incident occurred two days before France officially marked the end of its military operations in the West African nation, where in 2015 some 400 French special forces had been sent to help fight an insurgency that spread from neighbouring Mali.

The soldiers were ambushed in Oudalan province, in Burkina Faso's Sahel region, which shares a border with Mali.

Burkina Faso is one of several West African countries grappling with a jihadist insurgency that took root in Mali after a Tuareg rebellion in 2012.

Violence has spread to neighbouring countries and beyond despite costly international military interventions and United Nations peacekeeping efforts. Thousands have been killed and millions displaced across the Sahel region south of the Sahara.

Frustrations over the lack of safety spurred two coups in Mali and two in Burkina Faso since 2020, placing power in the hands of juntas that have been burning bridges with traditional Western allies.

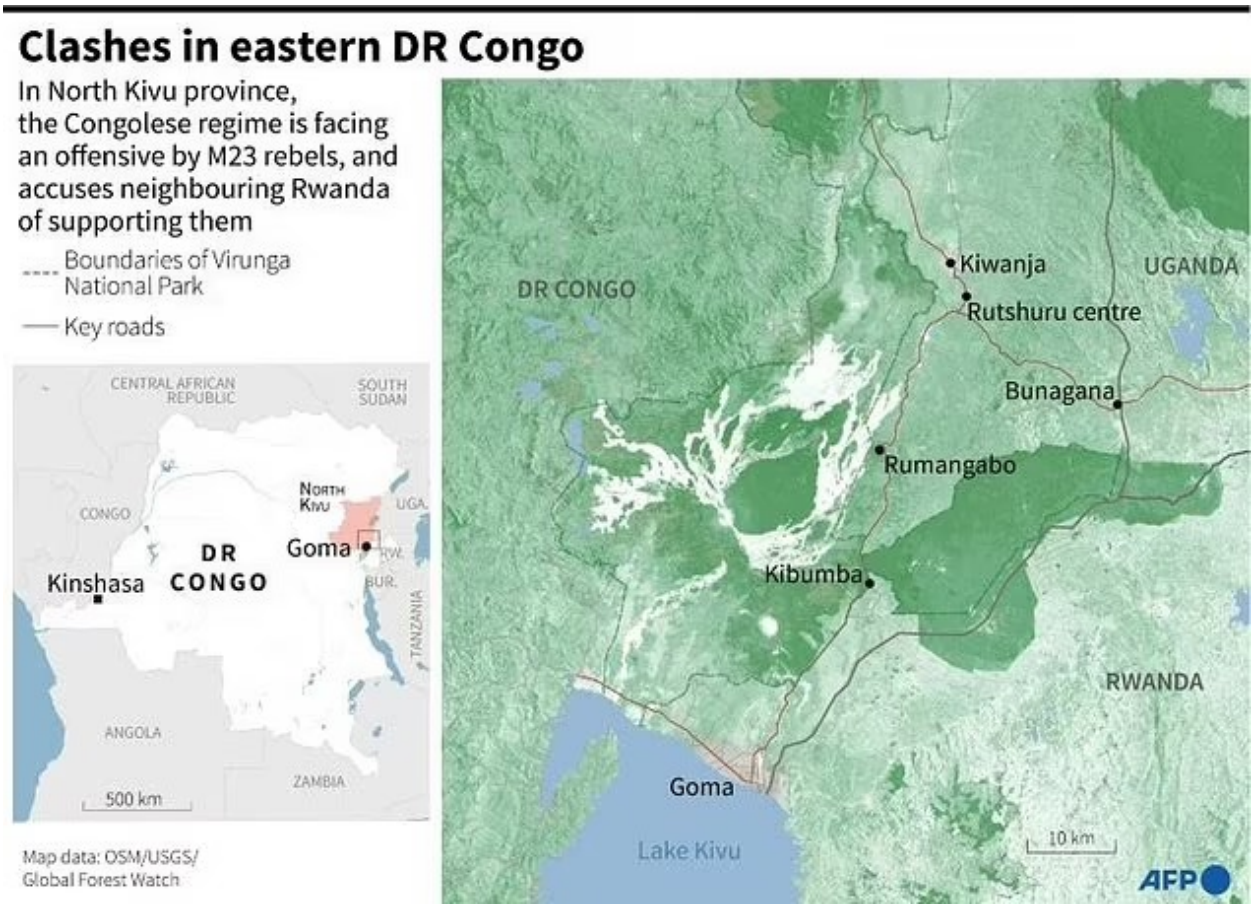
France's relations with Burkina Faso have sharply deteriorated over the past year, culminating with Ouagadougou giving its former coloniser one month to withdraw troops in January.

France withdrew its forces from Mali last year after the junta there started working with Russian military contractors. Several other countries have since followed suit.

The withdrawals have increased concerns about the outlook for a conflict that has seen the number of Islamist attacks more than double since 2020, according to the Africa Center for Strategic Studies.

Gunmen in Nigeria Kill Eight Police, Days Before Presidential Vote

The M23, a Tutsi-led group whose name stands for the March 23 Movement, re-emerged from dormancy in November 2021, accusing the DRC of ignoring a promise to integrate its fighters into the army.



The DRC accuses its smaller neighbour Rwanda of backing the group, a charge supported by independent UN experts as well as the United States and other western countries, but denied by Kigali.

EU Slaps Sanctions on Nine More Top Myanmar Officials

What’s driving conflict in the disputed Somali city of Las Anod? https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2023/2/20/whats-driving-conflict-in-the-disputed-somali-city-of-las-anod

Belarus

- Belarus Cadets Train on Russian Tanks Amid Fears of Bigger Conflict
- Poland Curbs Border Traffic as Belarus Expels Three Polish Diplomats
- Belarus to Form 100,000-150,000 Strong Volunteer Military Force

Turkey

- Turkey Not Exporting Items for Use in Russia War Effort: FM
- Blinken Reaffirms Pledge to Deliver Jets to Turkey
- 'State Ignored Our Warnings', Say Turkish Engineers and Architects
- Israel Returns Antique Jewish Scrolls Taken From Turkish Earthquake Zone
- 'Counterproductive:' Swedish MEP Slams Turkish Demands for Further NATO Concession

Iran

- Iran's Currency Hits All-Time Low as EU Prepares More Sanctions
- Iran 'Strongly Rejects' Israeli Claims on Oil Tanker Attack
- UK Sanctions Iranian, Judges, Commanders and Regional Governors

nice article about somalia. from germany (need to see a map of germany territories before ww1) https://www.dw.com/en/25-years-on-somaliland-struggles-for-recognition/a-19488683

european defense firm thaty I didn't know about: MBDA

EU Slaps Sanctions on Nine More Top Myanmar Officials

Historians often debate whether Germany's adoption of Weltpolitik (1897-1914) was the real cause of the First World War

Germany's Weltpolitik

Madison Grant

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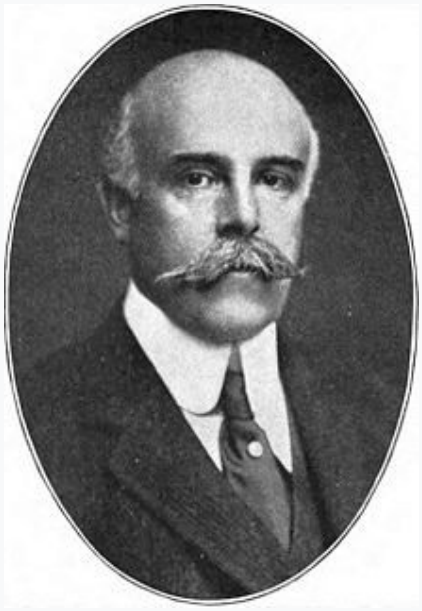
Find sources: "Madison Grant" – news · newspapers · books · scholar · JSTOR *(November 2021) (Learn how and when to remove this template message)*

Madison Grant



Grant in the early 1920s

Born	November 19, 1865 New York City, U.S.
Died	May 30, 1937 (aged 71) New York City, U.S.
Resting place	Sleepy Hollow Cemetery in Tarrytown, New York
Nationality	American
Alma mater	Columbia University Yale University

Occupation(s)	Lawyer, writer, zoologist
Known for	Eugenics, Scientific racism, *The Passing of the Great Race*, Nordicism

Madison Grant (November 19, 1865 – May 30, 1937) was an American lawyer, zoologist, anthropologist, and writer known primarily for his work as a eugenicist and conservationist, and as an advocate of scientific racism. Grant is less noted for his far-reaching deeds in conservation than for his advocacy of Nordicism, a form of racism which views the "Nordic race" as superior.[1][2]

As a eugenicist, Grant was the author of *The Passing of the Great Race* (1916), one of the most famous racist texts,[3] and played an active role in crafting immigration restriction and anti-miscegenation laws in the United States. As a conservationist, he is credited with the saving of species including the American bison,[4] helped create the Bronx Zoo, Glacier National Park, and Denali National Park, and co-founded the Save the Redwoods League.[5] Grant developed much of the discipline of wildlife management.[6]

Early life[edit]

Grant was born in New York City, New York, the son of Gabriel Grant, a physician and American Civil War surgeon, and Caroline Manice. Madison Grant's mother was a descendant of Jessé de Forest, the Walloon Huguenot who in 1623 recruited the first band of colonists to settle in New Netherland, the Dutch Republic's territory on the American East Coast. On his father's side, Madison Grant's first American ancestor was Richard Treat, dean of Pitminster Church in England, who in 1630 was one of the first Puritan settlers of New England. Grant's forebears through Treat's line include Robert Treat (a colonial governor of New Jersey), Robert Treat Paine (a signer of the Declaration of Independence), Charles Grant (Madison Grant's grandfather, who served as an officer in the War of 1812), and Gabriel Grant (father of Madison), a prominent physician and the health commissioner of Newark, New Jersey.[7][8][9] Grant was a lifelong resident of New York City.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Madison_Grant

Pygmies and a European. Some pygmies would be exposed in human zoos, such as Ota Benga displayed by eugenicist Madison Grant in the Bronx Zoo.

Ota Benga

28 languages

- Article
- Talk
- Read
- Edit
- View history

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Ota Benga

Benga at the St. Louis World's Fair, 1904

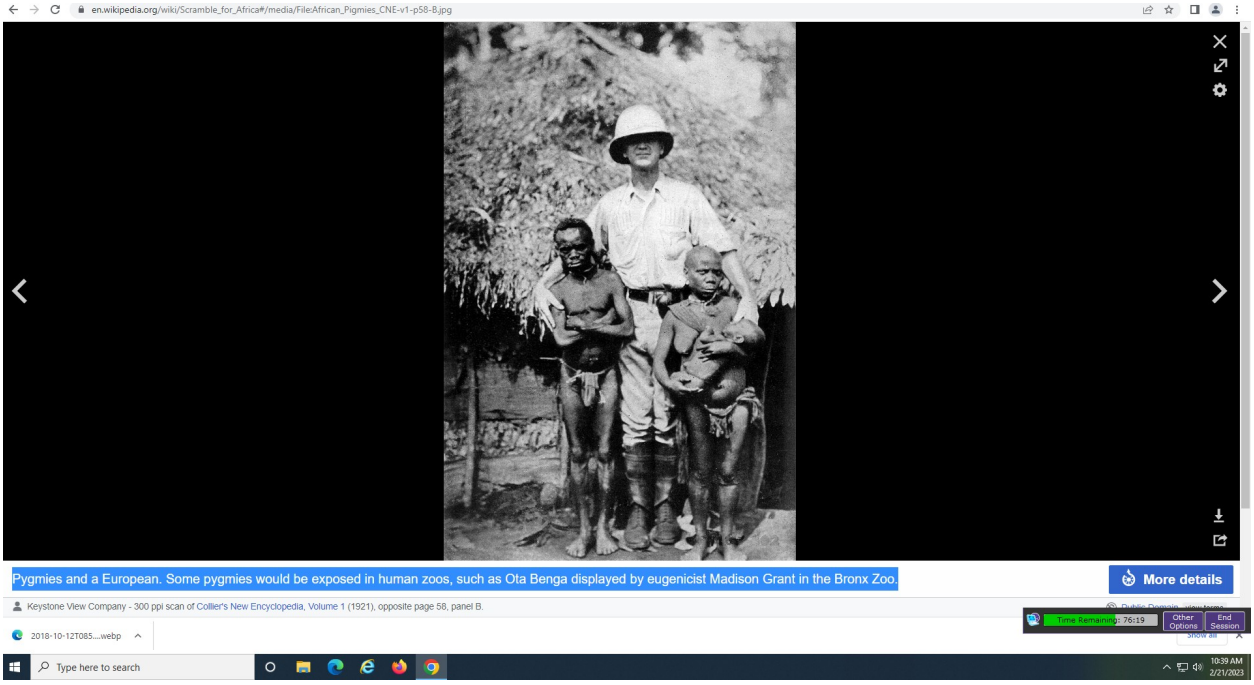
Born	Mbye Otabenga[1] c. 1883
Died	March 20, 1916 (aged 32–33) Lynchburg, Virginia, U.S.
Cause of death	Suicide
Resting place	White Rock Cemetery, Lynchburg, Virginia 37°23′56.23″N 79°7′58.41″W
Height	4 ft 11 in (150 cm)
Children	2

Ota Benga (c. 1883[2] – March 20, 1916) was a Mbuti (Congo pygmy) man, known for being featured in an exhibit at the 1904 Louisiana Purchase Exposition in St. Louis, Missouri, and as a human zoo exhibit in 1906 at the Bronx Zoo. Benga had been purchased from local African slave traders by the explorer Samuel Phillips Verner,[3] a businessman searching for African people for the exhibition, who took him to the United States. While at the Bronx Zoo, Benga was allowed to walk the grounds before and after he was exhibited in the zoo's Monkey House. Benga was placed in a cage with an orangutan as a lampoon on Darwinism. To enhance the primitive image and presumably protect himself if need be from the ape, he was given a functional bow and arrow. He used this instead to shoot at visitors who mocked him and partially as a result of this the exhibition was ended.[4] Except for a brief visit to Africa with Verner after the close of the St. Louis Fair, Benga lived in the United States, mostly in Virginia, for the rest of his life.

African-American newspapers around the nation published editorials strongly opposing Benga's treatment. Robert Stuart MacArthur, spokesman for a delegation of black churches, petitioned New York City Mayor George B. McClellan Jr. for his release from the Bronx Zoo. In late 1906, the mayor released Benga to the custody of James H. Gordon, who supervised the Howard Colored Orphan Asylum in Brooklyn.

In 1910, Gordon arranged for Benga to be cared for in Lynchburg, Virginia, where he paid for his clothes and to have his sharpened teeth capped. This would enable Benga to be more readily accepted in local society. Benga was tutored in English and began to work at a Lynchburg tobacco factory.

He tried to return to Africa, but the outbreak of World War I in 1914 stopped all ship passenger travel. Benga developed depression, and died by suicide in 1916.[5]


Pygmies and a European. Some pygmies would be exposed in human zoos, such as Ota Benga displayed by eugenicist Madison Grant in the Bronx Zoo.
More details
Keystone View Company - 300 ppi scan of Collier's New Encyclopedia, Volume 1 (1921), opposite page 58, panel B.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Human_zoo

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Scramble_for_Africa

Stats, history, middle east: the suez was developed by the french.. Ferdinand Marie, Comte de Lesseps GCSI (French: [də lesɛps]; 19 November 1805 – 7 December 1894) was a French diplomat and later developer of the Suez Canal, which in 1869 joined the Mediterranean

and Red Seas, substantially reducing sailing distances and times between Europe and East Asia.

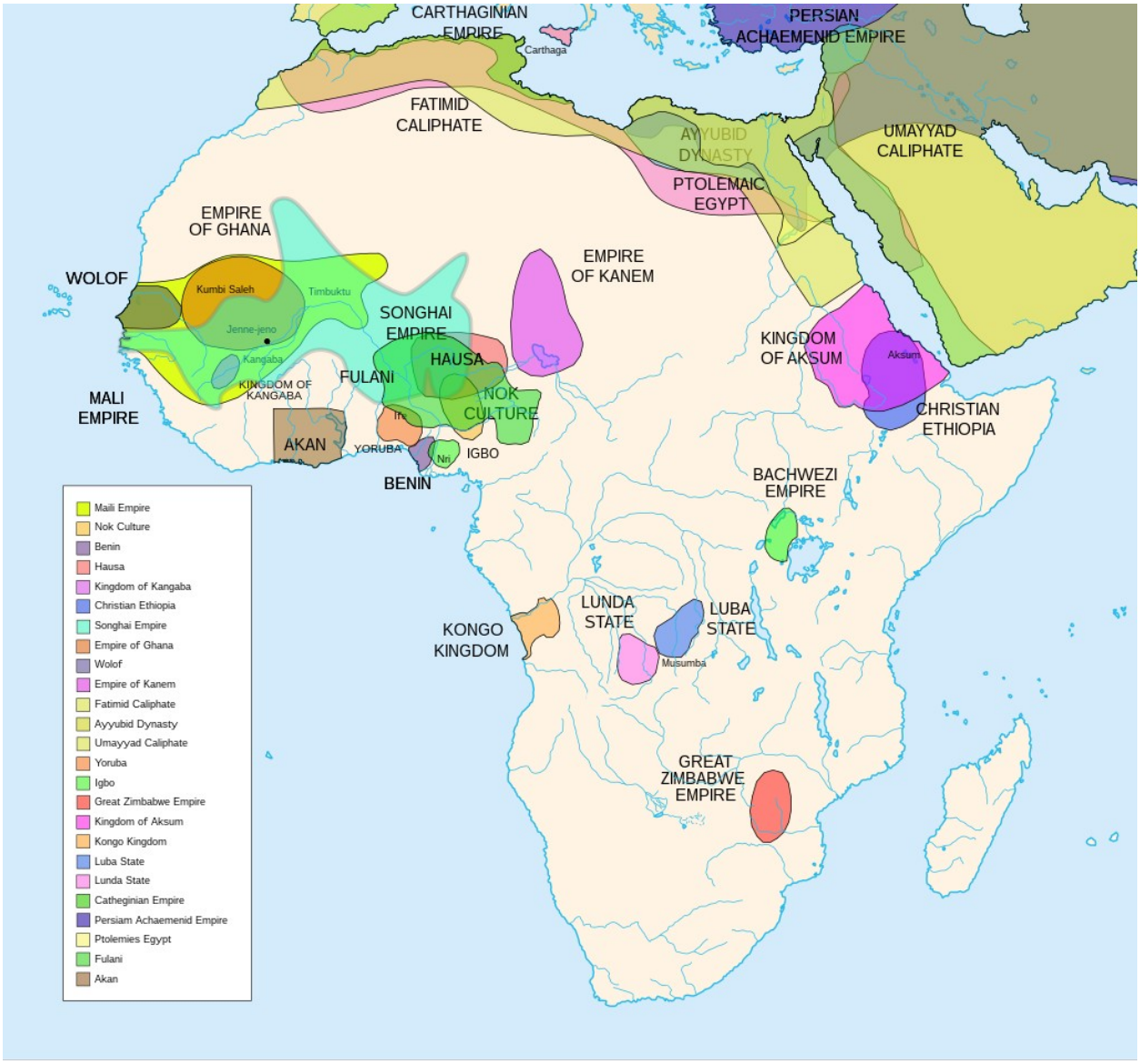
Ferdinand Marie, Comte de Lesseps GCSI (French: [də lesɛps]; 19 November 1805 – 7 December 1894) was a French diplomat and later developer of the Suez Canal, which in 1869 joined the Mediterranean and Red Seas, substantially reducing sailing distances and times between Europe and East Asia.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ferdinand_de_Lesseps

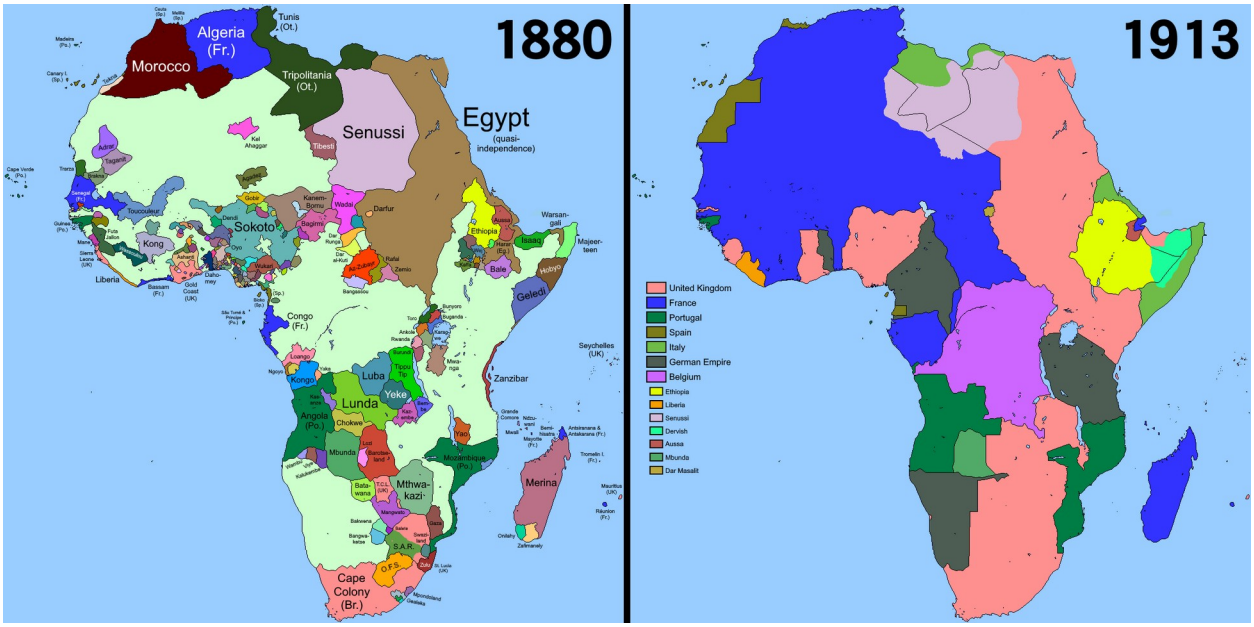
Stats, history, Africa: feb21 The Scramble for Africa, 1881-1914

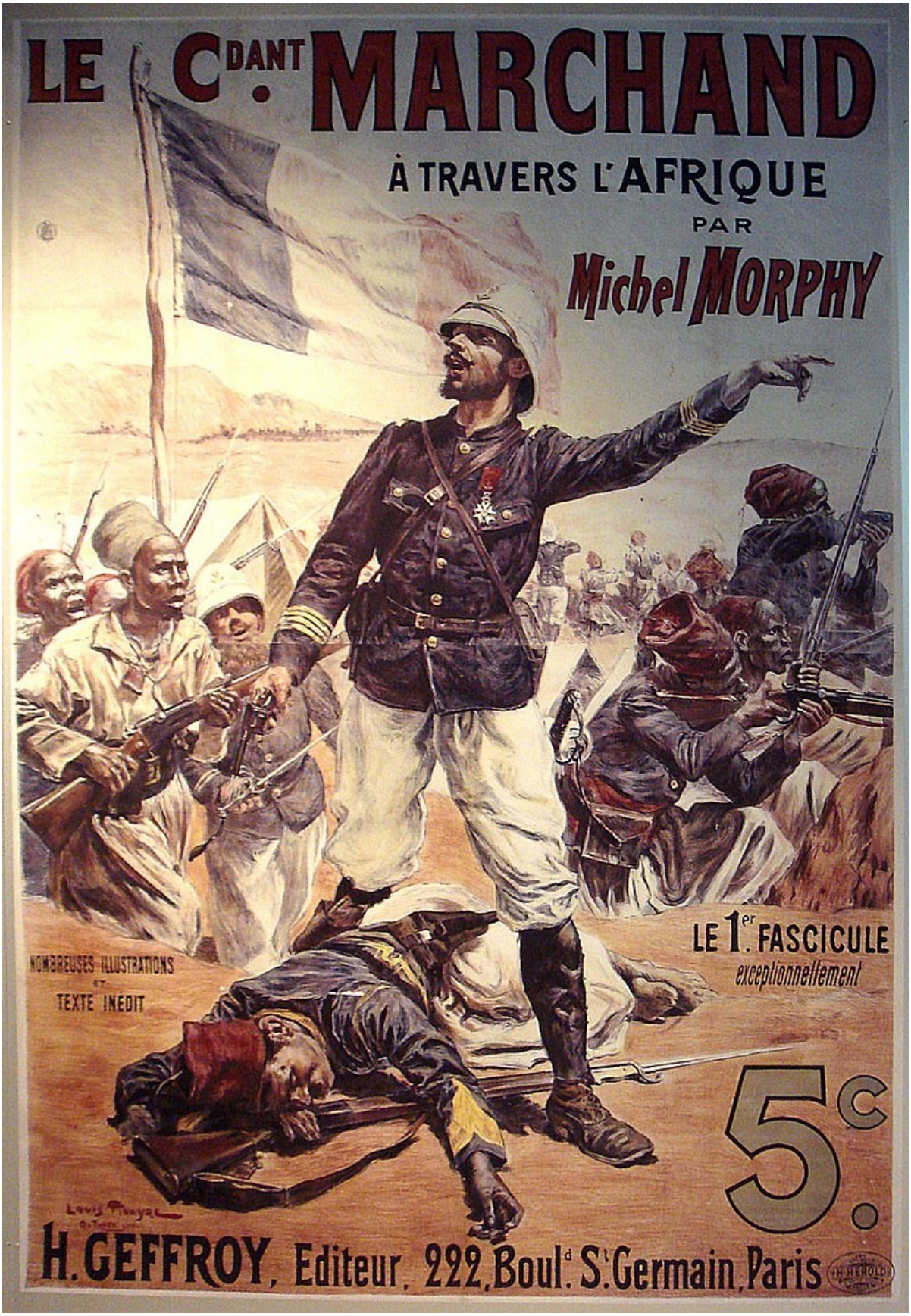
The **Scramble for Africa**, also called the **Partition of Africa**, the **Conquest of Africa** or the **Rape of Africa**, was the invasion, annexation, division, and colonization of most of Africa by seven Western European powers during a short period known as New Imperialism (between 1881 and 1914). The 10 percent of Africa that was under formal European control in 1870 increased to almost 90 percent by 1914, with only Liberia and Ethiopia remaining independent.[1]

The Berlin Conference of 1884, which regulated European colonization and trade in Africa, is usually accepted as the beginning



Map of African civilizations and kingdoms prior to European colonialism (spanning roughly 500 BCE to 1500 CE)


1880
Morocco
Algeria (Fr.)
Tunis (Ot.)
Tripolitania (Ot.)
Senussi
Egypt (quasi-independence)
Sokoto
Kong
Liberia
Congo (Fr.)
Luba
Yeke
Lunda
Angola (Po.)
Mbunda
Mthwa-kazi
Cape Colony (Br.)
Ethiopia
Bale
Isaaq
Geledi
Zanzibar
Merina
Seychelles (UK)
1913
United Kingdom
France
Portugal
Spain
Italy
German Empire
Belgium
Ethiopia
Liberia
Senussi
Dervish
Aussa
Mbunda
Dar Masalit


LE Cdant MARCHAND
À TRAVERS L'AFRIQUE
PAR
Michel MORPHY
NOMBREUSES ILLUSTRATIONS
ET
TEXTE INÉDIT
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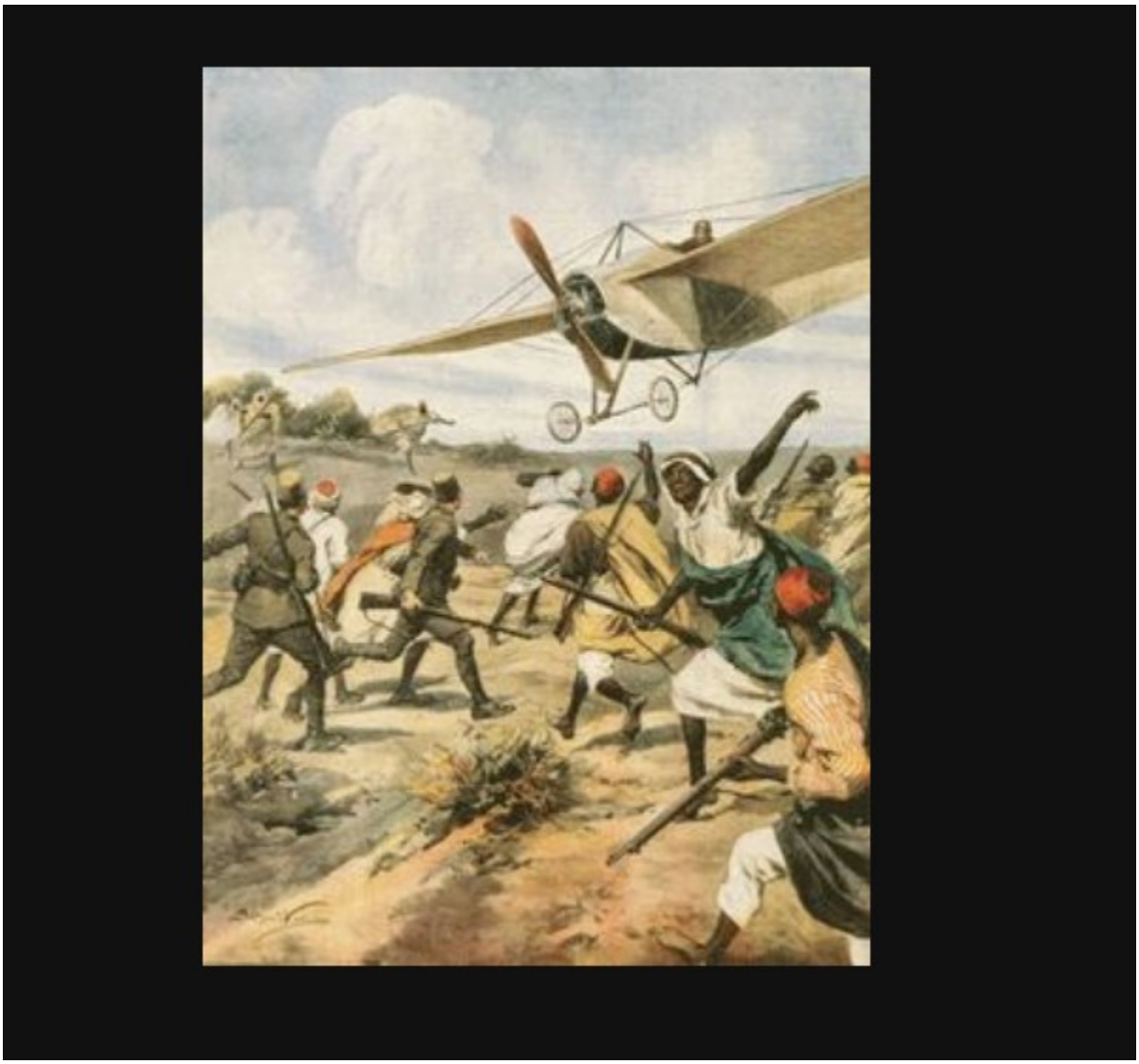
Italian aircraft in action against Ottoman forces during the Italian invasion of Libya in the Italo-Turkish War



Stats, history, africa: somali and the slave trade

In Somalia, the Bantu minorities are descended from Bantu groups that had settled in Southeast Africa after the initial expansion from Nigeria/Cameroon. To meet the demand for menial labor, Bantus from southeastern Africa captured by Somali slave traders were sold in cumulatively large numbers over the centuries to customers in Somalia and other areas in Northeast Africa and Asia.[30] People captured locally during wars and raids were also sometimes enslaved by Somalis mostly of Oromo and Nilotic origin.[31][32][33] However, the perception, capture, treatment and duties of both groups of slaves differed markedly.[33][34] From 1800 to 1890, between 25,000 and 50,000 Bantu slaves are thought to have been sold from the slave market of Zanzibar to the Somali coast.[35] Most of the slaves were from the Majindo, Makua, Nyasa, Yao, Zalama, Zaramo and Zigua ethnic groups of Tanzania, Mozambique and Malawi. Collectively, these Bantu groups are known as *Mushunguli*, which is a term taken from *Mzigula*, the Zigua tribe's word for "people" (the word holds multiple implied meanings including "worker", "foreigner", and "slave").[36]

During the second half of the 19th century and early 20th century, slaves shipped from Ethiopia had a high demand in the markets of the Arabian peninsula and elsewhere in the Middle East. They were mostly domestic servants, though some served as agricultural labourers, or as water carriers, herdsmen, seamen, camel drivers, porters, washerwomen, masons, shop assistants and cooks. The most fortunate of the men worked as the officials or bodyguards of the ruler and emirs, or as business managers for rich merchants.[37] They enjoyed significant personal freedom and occasionally held slaves of their own. Besides European, Caucasian, Javanese and Chinese girls brought in from the Far East, "red" (non-black) Ethiopian young females were among the most

valued concubines, some of whom became concubines of the elite and even mothers to rulers.[37] The principal sources of these slaves, all of whom passed through Matamma, Massawa and Tadjoura on the Red Sea, were the southwestern parts of Ethiopia, in the Oromo and Sidama country.[13][page needed] Both non-Muslims and Muslims in Southeast Asia during the end of the 19th century bought Japanese girls as slaves who were imported to the region by sea.[38] However, the buying of Chinese girls in Singapore was forbidden for Muslims by a Batavia (Jakarta) based Arab Muslim Mufti, Usman bin Yahya in a fatwa because he ruled that in Islam it was illegal to buy free non-Muslims or marry non-Muslim slave girls during peace time from slave dealers and non-Muslims could only be enslaved and purchased during holy war (jihad).[39]

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Indian_Ocean_slave_trade

found from arab slave trade

Arab slave trade

History of slavery in the Muslim world refers to various periods in which a slave trade has been carried out under the auspices of Arab peoples or Arab countries. Examples include:

- Trans-Saharan slave trade
- Indian Ocean slave trade
- Barbary slave trade
- Slavery in Tunisia
- Slavery in Libya
- Slavery in Sudan
- Slavery in Mauritania
- Slavery in Yemen

See also[edit]

- History of slavery in the Muslim world
- Qiyān
- Saqaliba
- Slavery in the Ottoman Empire

War, Erdogan: feb21 turkey NATO bid new developments, monday, continue later

Japan to Give Ukraine $5.5 Billion, Host Online G-7 With Zelensky Attending

Cavusoglu repeated Turkey’s stance that it would be willing to approve Finland joining NATO before Sweden. Turkey has complained about what it sees as Stockholm’s tolerance of support for the Kurdistan Workers’ Party, or PKK, which has waged a 39-year insurgency against Ankara.

“Unfortunately PKK supporters are still present in Sweden,” he said. “They are recruiting people and they are financing terror acts and they are carrying out terror propaganda in Sweden … because they don’t want Sweden to become a NATO member.”

The Turkish minister made clear his country objects to the sale of F-16 jets being tied to ratifying the NATO membership of Sweden and Finland which must be agreed by all 30 members of the alliance. Only the parliaments of Turkey and Hungary have yet to give consent.

“It would not be right or fair to make two independent issues — the two countries’ NATO membership and the purchase of F-16s — conditional on each other,” Cavusoglu said.

“It would not be possible for us to purchase the F-16s under these conditions.”

War: feb21 Zelensky Says Ukraine Will Defend Bakhmut But ‘Not at Any Price’Ukrainian

officials still maintain that they want to recapture all the territory Russia controls, including Crimea. Oleksiy Danilov, the head of Ukraine's National Security and Defence Council, said over the weekend that the war won't be over until "our tanks will be parked on Moscow's Red Square."

War: feb21 President Biden on Monday made a surprise visit to Ukraine, marking his first visit to the country since Russia invaded last year, a highly symbolic move that demonstrates Washington's deep involvement in the war.

Russia has been building up its forces for months after mobilizing 300,000 fresh troops and has been starting to make more territorial gains.

Some Republicans in Congress were critical of President Biden's trip. "Joe Biden prioritizing a visit to Ukraine before East Palestine, Ohio is the perfect example of his administration putting America last," House Majority Whip Tom Emmer (R-MN) said in a statement to *Breitbart*.

War, Erdogan: feb19 **israel bombs damascus, nobody cares: "At 00:22 am (2222 GMT), the Israeli enemy carried out an aerial aggression from the direction of the occupied Golan Heights targeting several areas in Damascus and its vicinity, including residential neighborhoods," Syria's defense ministry said in a statement.**

At least five people died, and 15 were critically injured in the Syrian capital on 19 February after Israeli warplanes dropped bombs on a building in central Damascus' Kafr Sousa neighborhood, reportedly targeting a security complex close to an Iranian cultural center.

"The strike on Sunday is the deadliest Israeli attack in the Syrian capital," the UK-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights (SOHR) said.

The Israeli attack comes as Syria continues to reel from a devastating earthquake that left close to 6,000 dead and leveled large swathes of the country's northwest region.

As has become the norm, Tel Aviv has not made any comments about their latest violation of Syrian sovereignty. Last month, an Israeli missile attack hit Damascus International Airport, killing four people, including two soldiers.

Israel has been launching attacks inside Syria for nearly a decade, allegedly targeting suspected Iranian and Hezbollah positions. Israeli war planes at times bombed Syrian army positions to assist offensives of the al-Qaeda-affiliated Nusra Front during the Western, Turkish, and Gulf-backed Salafist insurgency that began in 2011.

Last week, an Israeli military official declared Tel Aviv will not hesitate to bomb Iranian aid deliveries for disaster-struck Syria under claims that Tehran seeks to "take advantage of the tragic situation … to send weapons and equipment to Hezbollah."

Israel's newest threat comes just two weeks after its drones bombed three Iranian food trucks loaded with flour and rice as they headed from Iraq into Syria.

The trucks were attempting to legally enter Syria through the Al-Bukamal border crossing days after it was opened for commercial trucks for the first time since 2019.

Israel has previously prevented aid from arriving in Syria by bombing the country's airports, using similar claims of "weapons deliveries" from Iran.

Markets, government: feb19 **Credit Suisse continued its long death spiral yesterday, losing 15.64 percent of its market value in one trading session to close at $3.02 on the New York Stock Exchange**

February 9, 2023 at 2:01 AM AST *Updated*

https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2023-02-09/credit-suisse-clients-pull-120-billion-amid-fifth-straight-loss?leadSource=uverify%20wall

feb18, atw: feb19 US Raid Kills ISIS Leader in NW Syria; Four US Troops Wounded

The Pentagon claims that a US helicopter raid near the Syrian city of Deir Ezzor on Thursday ended with the death of an Islamic State (ISIS) leader named Hamza al-Homsi, who detonated a suicide vest during the raid. The blast allegedly resulted in the injury of four US soldiers and a dog, all of whom are in stable condition.

As happens so often with ISIS "leaders" the US kills, Homsi's profile seems to have grown substantially since his death. It's suggested he ran the whole ISIS network in eastern Syria.

ISIS has shown an ability to replace slain leaders with little loss of effectiveness. CENTCOM did not reveal what motivated this raid, though it came the same day as a high profile ISIS raid further to the west.

CENTCOM reported that no other ISIS fighters were present at the Homsi raid, raising the question of why such an important leader was left totally unguarded. CENTCOM did claim a second ISIS figure was capturedin a totally unrelated raid against an assassination cell leader.

CENTCOM offered no further details on this second raid Friday, but later identified him as /batar, and suggested US troops faced resistance.. There were no ISIS comments on these incidents so far, which is unusual, though ISIS may simply be waiting to issue a statement.

history, fall of rome: **The Second Temple period in Jewish history lasted approximately 600 years (516 BCE–70 CE), during which the Second Temple existed. It started with the return to Zion and the construction of the Second Temple, while it ended with the First Jewish–Roman War and the destruction of Jerusalem in 70 CE.**

The **Second Temple period** in Jewish history lasted approximately 600 years (516 BCE–70 CE), during which the Second Temple existed. It started with the return to Zion and the construction of the Second Temple, while it ended with the First Jewish–Roman War and the destruction of Jerusalem in 70 CE.

In 587/6 BCE, the Kingdom of Judah was conquered by the Neo-Babylonian Empire. The Judeans lost their independence and monarchy, and their holy city was destroyed. Part of the Judean population was exiled to Babylon; it was eventually allowed to return following a proclamation by the Persian king Cyrus the Great that was issued after the fall of Babylon to the Achaemenid Empire.[1][2] Under Persian provincial governance (c. 539 – c. 332 BCE), the returned Jewish population in Judah was allowed to self-govern and rebuild the Temple in Jerusalem. In 332 BCE, Judea was conquered by Alexander the Great, and later incorporated into the Ptolemaic Kingdom (c. 301–200 BCE) and the Seleucid Empire (c. 200–167 BCE).

The Maccabean revolt against Seleucid rule led to the establishment of an independent Jewish kingdom under the Hasmonean dynasty (140–37 BCE), which later, via a series of military campaigns expanded over much of modern Israel and parts of Jordan and Lebanon.[3][4][5] In 63 BCE, the kingdom was conquered by the Roman Republic, and in 37 BCE, the Romans appointed Herod the Great as king of a vassal Judea. In 6 BCE, it was fully incorporated into the Roman Empire as the province of Judaea. Growing dissatisfaction with Roman rule eventually led to the First Jewish-Roman War (66–73 CE), which resulted in the destruction of Jerusalem and its Temple, bringing an end to the Second Temple period.

As Second Temple Judaism developed, multiple religious currents emerged and extensive cultural, religious, and political developments occurred. The development of the Hebrew Bible canon, the synagogue and Jewish eschatology can be traced back to the Second Temple period. According to Jewish tradition, prophecy ceased during the early Second Temple period; this left the Jews without their version of divine guidance

at a time when they felt most in need of support and direction.[6] Under Hellenistic rule, the growing influence of Hellenism in Judaism became a source of dissent for those Jews who clung to their monotheistic faith; this was a major catalyst for the Maccabean revolt. In the latter years of the period, Jewish society was deeply polarized along ideological lines, and the sects of the Pharisees, Sadducees, Essenes, Zealots, and early Christianity were formed.

The destruction of Jerusalem and the Second Temple in 70 CE is considered one of the most cataclysmic events in Jewish history.[7] The loss of mother-city and temple necessitated a reshaping of Jewish culture to ensure its survival. Judaism's Temple-based sects disappeared.[8] Rabbinic Judaism, centered around communal synagogue worship and Torah study, eventually evolved out of the Pharisaic school and became the mainstream form of the religion.[9][7][10][11] During the same period, Christianity gradually separated from Judaism, becoming a predominantly Gentile religion.[12] A few decades after the First Jewish-Roman War, the Bar-Kokhba Revolt (132–135 CE) erupted; it further dwindled the Jewish population in Judea and enhanced the role of Jewish diaspora, relocating the Jewish demographic center to Galilee and eventually to Babylon, with smaller communities across the Mediterranean.

Roman involvement in the Levant

The first intervention of Rome in the region dates from 63 BCE, following the end of the Third Mithridatic War, when Rome created the province of Syria. After the defeat of Mithridates VI of Pontus, Pompey (Pompey the Great) sacked Jerusalem in 63 BCE. The Hasmonean Queen, Salome Alexandra, had recently died and her sons, Hyrcanus II and Aristobulus II, turned against each other in a civil war. In 63 BCE, Aristobulus was besieged in Jerusalem by his brother's armies. He sent an envoy to Marcus Aemilius Scaurus, Pompey's representative in the area. Aristobulus offered a massive bribe to be rescued, which Pompey promptly accepted. Afterwards, Aristobulus accused Scaurus of extortion. Since Scaurus was Pompey's brother-in-law and protégé, the general retaliated by putting Hyrcanus in charge of the kingdom as Prince and High Priest.

When Pompey was defeated by Julius Caesar, Hyrcanus was succeeded by his courtier Antipater the Idumaean, also known as Antipas, as the first Roman Procurator. In 57–55 BCE, Aulus Gabinius, proconsul of Syria, split the former Hasmonean Kingdom into five districts of Sanhedrin/Synedrion (councils of law).[4]

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Herodian_Kingdom_of_Judea

Roman Judaea[edit]

Main article: Judaea (Roman province)

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sources. Unsourced material may be challenged and removed. *(August 2022) (Learn how and when to remove this template message)*

In 6 CE, the country fell into unrest, and the Herodian ruler of Judea was deposed in favor of forming the new Iudaea Province under direct Roman rule.[58] The Roman province of Judaea extended over parts of the former regions of the Hasmonean and Herodian kingdoms. It was created in 6 CE with the Census of Quirinius and merged into Syria Palaestina after 135 CE.

Herod II ruled Ituraea and Trachonitis until his death in 34 CE when he was succeeded as tetrarch by Herod Agrippa I, who had previously been ruler of Chalcis. Agrippa surrendered Chalcis to his brother Herod and ruled in Philip's stead. On the death of Herod Antipas in 39 CE Herod Agrippa became ruler of Galilee also, and in 41 CE, as a mark of favour by the Emperor Claudius, succeeded the Roman prefect Marullus as ruler of Judea.

The era from roughly 4 BCE to 33 CE is also notable as being the time period when Jesus of Nazareth lived, primarily in Galilee, under the reign of Herod Antipas. It is therefore considered in specifically Jewish history as being when Christianity arose as a messianic sect from within Second Temple Judaism.

First Jewish-Roman War[edit]

Main article: First Jewish–Roman War

In 66 CE, the Jews of Judea rose in revolt against Rome, sparking the First Jewish–Roman War (66-73 CE), also known as the Great Jewish Revolt. Flavius Josephus, a contemporary Jewish historian who fought as the commander of Jewish forces in Galilee but later defected to the Roman side, chronicled the events of the war in his book *The Jewish War*.

The hill where ancient Yodfat stood; the ruins of Gamla; stone piles near the Western Wall thought to have been thrown by Roman legionaries during the destruction of the Second Temple

Vespasian, an experienced Roman general, was sent by emperor Nero to crush the rebellion. He arrived at Ptolemais along with legions X *Fretensis* and V *Macedonica*. There he was joined by his son Titus, who arrived from Alexandria at the head of Legio XV Apollinaris, as well as by the armies of various local allies including that of king Agrippa II. During the Galilee campaign, many towns surrendered without a fight, and others were taken by force. Yodfat, a fortified town in the Lower Galilee, was besieged for 47 days before it fell to treachery; the city was razed, many people were killed, and the rest were enslaved. Gamla, the major Jewish stronghold in the Golan Heights, fell after a one month siege. Following a lull in military operations caused by civil war and political turmoil in Rome, Vespasian was summoned to Rome and appointed Emperor.

The Arch of Titus in Rome depicts the Roman triumph celebrating the fall of Jerusalem. The procession includes the Menorah and other Second Temple vessels.

In early 70 CE, Titus moved to besiege Jerusalem, the center of rebel resistance in Judaea. The city had been taken over by several rebel factions following a period of massive unrest and the collapse of a short-lived provisional government. The first two walls of Jerusalem were breached in three weeks, but the Roman Army was unable to breach the third and thickest wall due to a stubborn rebel standoff. According to Josephus, a contemporary historian and the main source for the war, the city was ravaged by murder, famine and cannibalism.[59] On Tisha B'Av, 70 CE (August 30),[60] Roman forces finally overwhelmed the defenders and set fire to the Temple.[61] Resistance continued for another month, but eventually the upper and lower parts of the city were taken as well, and the city was burned to the ground. Titus spared only the three towers of the Herodian citadel as a testimony to the city's former might.[62][63] Josephus wrote that over a million people perished in the siege and the subsequent fighting.[64] While contemporary studies dispute this figure, all agree that the siege had a major toll on human life, with many people being killed and enslaved, and large parts of the city destroyed.

After the fall of Jerusalem, Titus returned to Rome, leaving the remaining Jewish strongholds, including Herodium and Machaerus, to the Roman Legions. The war ended in 73-74 CE with the siege of Masada. According to Josephus, the siege resulted in the mass suicide of the Sicarii rebels and resident Jewish families, though the historicity of the mass suicide is debated.

Aerial view of Masada, the last stronghold of the First Jewish-Roman War. The Roman siege ramp appears to the right.

Main articles: Bar Kokhba revolt and History of the Jews in the Roman Empire

Two generations after the First Jewish-Roman War, the Bar Kokhba Revolt (132-136 CE) erupted. It resulted in the extensive depopulation of Judean communities, more so than during the First Jewish–Roman War of 70 CE.[65][66] Some scholars have described these events as genocide.[66] According to Cassius Dio, 580,000 Jews perished in the war and many more died of hunger and disease, 50 fortresses and 985 villages were destroyed. In addition, many Judean war captives were sold into slavery.[67] Some modern historians assert that Dio's numbers were somewhat exaggerated,[68] but other researchers support Dio's claim of massive depopulation.[69] Jerusalem was rebuilt as a Roman colony under the name of Aelia Capitolina, and the province of Judea was renamed Syria Palaestina.[70][71]

Jewish presence in the region significantly dwindled after the failure of the Bar Kokhba revolt.[72] Nevertheless, there was a continuous small Jewish presence and Galilee became its religious center.[73][74] Jewish communities also continued to reside in the southern Hebron Hills and on the coastal plain.[65] The Mishnah and part of the Talmud, central Jewish texts, were composed during the 2nd to 4th centuries CE

in Tiberias and Jerusalem.[75] Over the next centuries, more Jews emigrated to flourishing communities in the Diaspora. Others remained in the Land of Israel, and some converted to Christianity.[76] Jewish historians occasionally refers to this time period, which corresponds with the world's late antiquity, as the Rabbinic or Talmudic period.

After the destruction of the Second Temple, Judaism separated into a linguistically Greek and a Hebrew / Aramaic sphere.[77]:8–11 The theology and religious texts of each community were distinctively different.[77]:11–13 Hellenized Judaism never developed yeshivas to study the Oral Law. Rabbinic Judaism (centered in the Land of Israel and Babylon) almost entirely ignores the Hellenized Diaspora in its writings.[77]:13–14 Hellenized Judaism eventually disappeared as its practitioners assimilated into Greco-Roman culture, leaving a strong Rabbinic eastern Diaspora with large centers of learning in Babylon.[77]:14–16

By the first century, the Jewish community in Babylonia, to which Jews were exiled after the Babylonian conquest as well as after the Bar Kokhba revolt in 135 CE, already held a speedily growing[78] population of an estimated one million Jews, which increased to an estimated two million[79] between the years 200 CE and 500 CE, both by natural growth and by immigration of more Jews from the Land of Israel, making up about one-sixth of the world Jewish population at that era.[79]

Religion[edit]

Main article: Second Temple Judaism

During the 600 years of the Second Temple period, multiple religious currents emerged and extensive religious developments occurred. The development of the Hebrew Bible canon, the synagogue, Jewish eschatology can all be traced back to the Second Temple period.

According to Jewish tradition, prophecy ceased during the early Second Temple period; this left the Jews without their version of divine guidance at a time when they felt most in need of support and direction.[6]

During the Hellenistic period, currents of Judaism were influenced by Hellenistic philosophy developed from the 3rd century BCE, notably the Jewish diaspora in Alexandria, culminating in the compilation of the Septuagint. An important advocate of the symbiosis of Jewish theology and Hellenistic thought is Philo. The growing influence of Hellenism in Judaism became a source of dissent for some Jews; this was a major catalyst for the Maccabean revolt.

From c. 170 BCE to 30 CE, five successive generations of *zugot* ("pairs of") leaders headed the Jews' spiritual affairs. It was during this period that the sects of the Pharisees, Sadducees, Essenes and Zealots were formed.

A number of messianic ideas developed during the later Second Temple period. Christianity first emerged as a Second Temple Judaic sect in the 1st century Hellenistic Judaism in Roman Judea. Jesus of Nazareth was a first-century Jewish preacher and religious leader.[80] After his death, his apostles and their followers spread around the Levant, Europe, Anatolia, Mesopotamia, the South Caucasus, Egypt, and Ethiopia, despite initial persecution. It soon attracted gentile God-fearers, which led to a departure from Jewish customs, and, after the fall of Jerusalem which ended the Temple-based Judaism, Christianity slowly separated from Judaism.

War, Germany, sanctions, Erdogan, stats: feb19 Some 1.1 Million People Came to Germany From Ukraine in 2022, exceeds migrant influx from the Middle East around 2015

Some 1.1 million people arrived in Germany from Ukraine in 2022, exceeding the influx of migrants from the Middle East around 2015, Germany's federal statistical office said on Thursday.

Two thirds of the immigrants from Ukraine arrived in the first three months after Russia's invasion of Ukraine, between March and May of last year, it said.

War: feb19 Russia Expels Four Austrian Diplomats in Tit-For-Tat Move

censorship, government, stats, readlater: feb19 European Parliament chiefs block public scrutiny of von der Leyen over Pfizer contract

Dutch MEP Robert Roos, COVID committee coordinator for the ECR group, called it a "disgraceful decision."

"Von der Leyen negotiated a multibillion dollar deal with EU taxpayer money. As the European Parliament, we should be able to hold her accountable. A secret backdoor meeting with only

the presidents of the political groups is not accountability," he said.

The top ranks of the European Parliament have slammed the door shut to a public cross-examination of Commission President Ursula von der Leyen over her personal role in negotiating a multibillion euro vaccine deal with Pfizer.

Last month, lawmakers in the Parliament's special committee on COVID-19 proposed to invite von der Leyen to answer questions on the EU's largest vaccine contract, signed at the height of the pandemic. It was in the run-up to this contract that she is reported to have exchanged text messages with Pfizer's Chief Executive Albert Bourla.

However, at a closed-door meeting Thursday of the Conference of Presidents (CoP) — which includes the heads of all the political groups and the Parliament's president — leaders refused the request to hold a public grilling. Instead they decided to ask von der Leyen to answer questions in private at some point in the future, watering down the invitation to almost nothing.

Two groups — the right wing European Conservatives and Reformists group and the far-right Identity and Democracy groups — pushed for more accountability for von der Leyen by requesting that she either address the full plenary or speak in front of the dedicated COVID panel.

And, following the meeting, a spokesperson for the Left group said: "It's good that she comes to talk about it in the CoP but we think Parliament should also have a public hearing with VDL on it, not just the Conference of Presidents."

The reaction from MEPs on the COVID-19 committee, which will now be cut out altogether, is clear: They're not happy.

Albert Bourla at the 2022 World Economic Forum (WEF) annual meeting in Davos| Fabrice Coffrini/AFP via Getty Images

Dutch MEP Robert Roos, COVID committee coordinator for the ECR group, called it a "disgraceful decision."

"Von der Leyen negotiated a multibillion dollar deal with EU taxpayer money. As the European Parliament, we should be able to

hold her accountable. A secret backdoor meeting with only the presidents of the political groups is not accountability," he said.

COVID-19 committee vice chair, French MEP Michèle Rivasi of the Greens group, said that the top EU officials were trying to "keep it in the family."

Erdogan, war, sanctions: feb19 **truffle hunters targeted by jihadists on motorcycles, 68 killed. ISIS said to be assailant; deadliest attack by IS since January last year when they stormed a prison in the Kurdish-controlled northeastern city of Hasakeh**

At least 53 people were killed Friday in an ambush in central Syria blamed on the Islamic State group, state media reported, the deadiest attack by the jihadists in more than a year.

"Fifty-three citizens who were truffle hunting were killed during an attack by the terrorists of IS to the southwest of the town of Al-Sokhna" in the desert east of Homs, state television said.

The director of Palmyra hospital, Walid Audi, said those killed were 46 civilians and seven soldiers.

Audi told pro-government radio station Sham FM that their bodies had "been brought to the hospital after the ambush" that targeted dozens.

The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights also reported the attack, which it said was carried out by jihadists on motorcycles who opened fire on the truffle hunters.

The jihadist group did not immediately claim the attack on its usual channels.

It was the deadliest attack by IS since January last year when they stormed a prison in the Kurdish-controlled northeastern city of Hasakeh in a bid to free fellow jihadists.

The resulting fighting inside the city killed 105 people, mostly civilians, as well as 268 jihadists.

Separately on Friday, the US Central Command said four American military personnel were injured in a blast during a raid that killed a senior IS leader in Syria.

The IS leader, identified as Hamza al-Homsi, was killed, while the US troops and a working dog were being treated at an American medical facility in Iraq, it added.

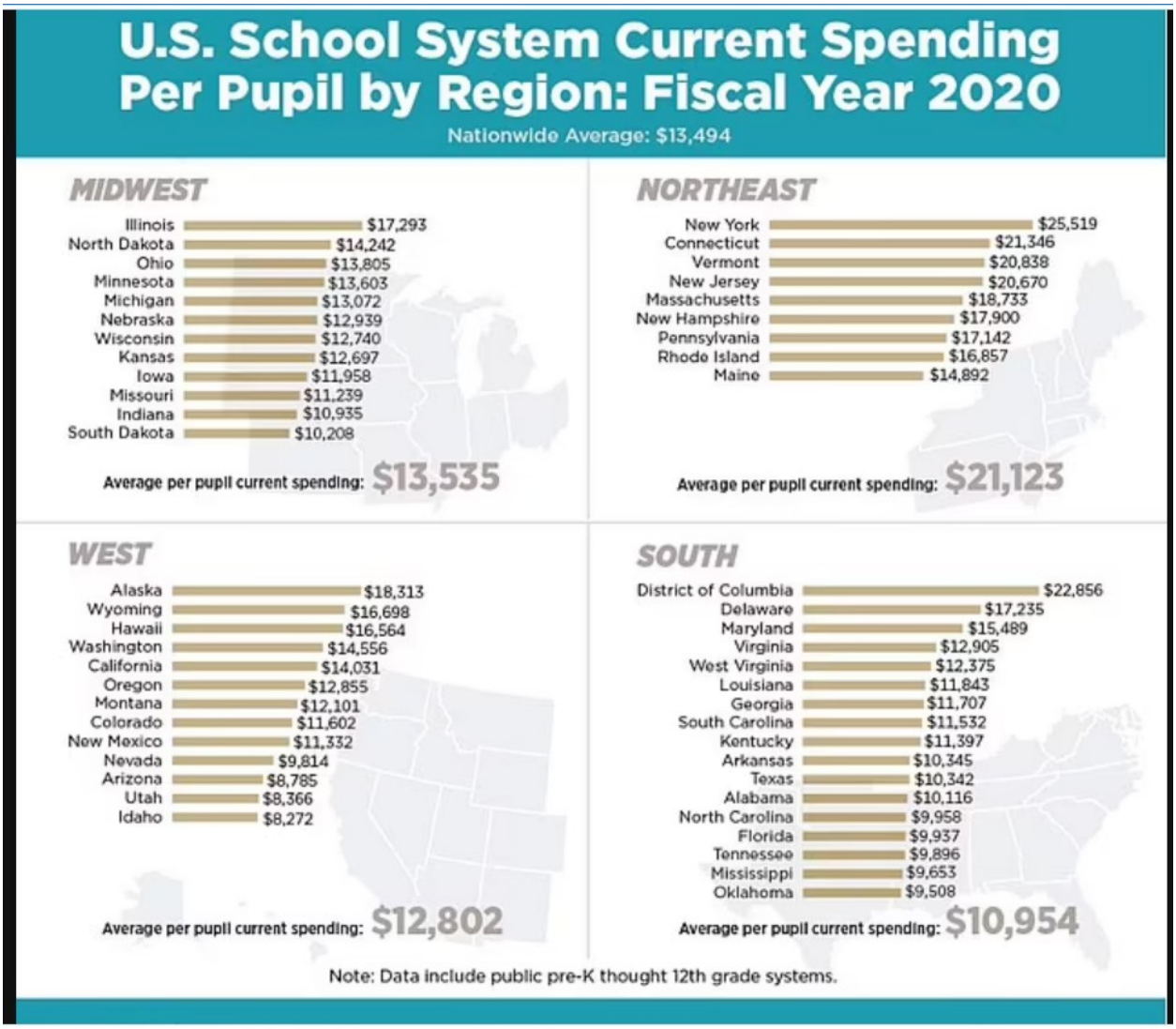
Since their defeat, mostly by US and Kurdish SDF forces, the ISIS remnants have tried to reestablish footholds in populated areas. Syria's military, backed by Russian forces, have prevented them from doing so, but today's attack underscores the persistence of the threat they represent.

This was the single deadliest attack in Syria since January 2022, when ISIS forces stormed a prison in al-Hasakeh in an attempt to free high-ranking ISIS prisoners. More than 100 were killed in that attack.

Where ARE things going wrong? Damning report finds there are 23 public schools in Baltimore where NONE of the children understand basic math - as parents blame Dem-led city's 'fraud and corruption'

Davida Allen said she was angry the CEO of Baltimore Public Schools, Sonja Santelises, was earning a base salary of $333,125 - which rose to $444,875 with allowances - yet students were still failing.

In August last year Baltimore City Schools committed to spending $21,000 per student thanks to a huge funding increase. US census data from 2020 indicates the expenditure per pupil in Maryland as a whole was $15,489



Vaccine, health, censorship, government: feb19

During the pandemic, suicide became the second leading cause of death for U.S. children between the ages of 10 and 14.

Mental health crisis among youth

Experts say mental health issues among children and adolescents have skyrocketed in recent years.

“I would say over the last 10 years, since I’ve been practicing as a general pediatrician, I have seen a shift both in the amount of patients and of all ages dealing with anxiety and depression. And their parents being concerned about this is a key issue,” said Dr.

Katherine Williamson, a pediatrician and spokesperson for the American Academy of Pediatrics. “Even before the pandemic, we were seeing skyrocketing numbers of kids and adolescents dealing with mental health issues, and that has increased exponentially since the pandemic.”

Study finds 'huge' increase in children going to the emergency room with suicidal thoughts

Suicide became the second leading cause of death among children 10 to 14 during the Covid-19 pandemic, according to the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Mental health-related emergency room visits among adolescents 5 to 11 and 12 to 17 also jumped 24% and 31%, respectively.

Many parents feel helpless when their children have mental health issues because they don't feel equipped to offer support in this area.

"They are unable to relieve [mental health issues] and address that as they could if they were struggling with their grades or other things that seem more traditional to for kids to struggle with," said Allen Sabey, a family therapist at the Family Institute at Northwestern University.

Parents trying to "work out and look at and connect with their own feelings will give them important information about what feels off or OK for their kid,"

Suicide rate highest among teens and young adults

he said.

Suicide is the second-leading cause of death among people age 15 to 24 in the U.S. Nearly 20% of high school students report serious thoughts of suicide and 9% have made an attempt to take their lives, according to the National Alliance on Mental Illness.

"Teenagers and young adults have the highest rates of suicide compared to other ages," Dr. Fleisher says. "The things that make them vulnerable are where they stand socially and where they stand developmentally."

Developmentally, their judgment and decision-making abilities are still coming online, he says. The prefrontal cortex — the brain's executive control center — doesn't fully develop until one's mid-20s.

That makes young people more impulsive, Dr. Fleisher says: "They're not going to weigh risks and consequences or values in quite the same way that older folks will."

Socially, teens and young adults don't have the same connections older adults do. Someone who is married, has a long-term partner or has children or grandchildren is in

a different place socially than someone who is just coming into their own, living with roommates or alone.

The isolation of the pandemic exacerbated social disconnection even more.

Journal, Censorship, government: feb19
This one really stood out to me…I remember reading this book when I was a child..

Roald Dahl books rewritten to remove language deemed offensive (he wrote matilda and charlie and the chocolate factory)

When it comes to the books, though, it seems silly to target racism and misogyny because the reality is that almost all the adult characters in Dahl's books are scary and ugly. Children take pleasure in the macabre, bizarre, and scary, especially when humor and a happy outcome are involved. And for children, who have moral clarity before leftists get hold of them, a happy outcome means the good are rewarded and the bad are punished.

Perhaps it's that ultimate moral clarity that really explains why the wokerati have come after Dahl's writing (emphasis mine):

"Words matter," begins the discreet notice, which sits at the bottom of the copyright page of Puffin's latest editions of Roald Dahl's books.

"The wonderful words of Roald Dahl can transport you to different worlds and introduce you to the most marvellous characters. This book was written many years ago, and **so we regularly review the language to ensure that it can continue to be enjoyed by all today**."

…

By comparing the latest editions with earlier versions of the texts, **The Telegraph has found hundreds of changes to Dahl's stories.**

Language related to weight, mental health, violence, gender and race has been cut and rewritten.

In Matilda, a mention of Rudyard Kipling has been cut and Jane Austen added. It's Roald Dahl, but different.

One of the most bowdlerized books is *The Witches*, about a boy growing up in a coven of witches fully as unpleasant as the crones in *Macbeth*. The book has been cleaned up…a lot:

“A witch is always a woman”, went the 2001 version of the book. “I do not wish to speak badly about women. Most women are lovely. But the fact remains that all witches are women. There is no such thing as a male witch.”

That became, simply, **“A witch is always a woman. There is no such thing as a male witch.”**

The tweaks are endless:

Other alterations are about weight. **“Fat little brown mouse” becomes “little brown mouse”.**

“‘Here’s your little boy,’ she said. ‘He needs to go on a diet’”, becomes “Here’s your little boy.”

…

Elsewhere, Miss Trunchbull’s **“great horsey face” becomes simply her “face”.**

Color is especially absent. Any color:

Rather than “turning white,” a character turns “quite pale”….

…

In James and the Giant Peach, **the Cloud-Men have become Cloud-People, Miss Sponge is no longer “the fat one”, Miss Spider’s head is no longer “black” and the Earthworm no longer has “lovely pink” skin but “lovely smooth skin”.**

…

In Fantastic Mr Fox a description of tractors, saying that **“the machines were both black”, has been cut.** In the new Dahl world, it seems, neither machines nor animals can be described with a colour.

And it’s not just words. In *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, **the original illustrations have been changed so that Mike Teavee, with his 18 toy pistols slung about his body, no longer has any pistols** - which goes with the fact that the text doesn’t mention them anymore either.

War, china: Feb19 Blinken Warns China Against Providing Aid To Russia, Says Balloon

Surveillance Must "Never Again Occur" As Beijing Slams "Excessive Use Of Force", Offers "No Apology"

Blinken and China's top diplomat spar over spy balloon incident in Munich meeting

Wang Yi slams the United States' "excessive use of force" while Blinken warns such surveillance "must never again occur."

There were signs that Secretary of State Antony Blinken was operating under the assumption that a Munich meeting with Wang Yi (not shown) was highly likely. | Petr David Josek/AP Photo

By **PHELIM KINE** and **NAHAL TOOSI**
02/17/2023 05:27 PM EST
Updated: 02/18/2023 07:41 PM EST

Secretary of State Antony Blinken warned China's top diplomat on Saturday that the U.S. will not tolerate violations of its airspace after a Chinese spy balloon flew over North America, but received no apologies from Beijing.

Blinken met with Wang Yi, director of China's Office of the Central Commission for Foreign Affairs, on the sidelines of the Munich Security Conference. It was the administration's first face-to-face reckoning with the Chinese government since the balloon was discovered earlier this month and subsequently downed by the U.S. military off the coast of South Carolina.

History, rome, church, history, fall of rome, greece: **the exilarch was regarded by jews as the heir to the house of david, was noble within in sasanian empire (iran, 224–651).**

The exilarch was regarded by the Jewish community as the royal heir of the House of David and held a place of prominence as both a rabbinical authority and as a noble within the Persian court. Within the Sasanian Empire, the exilarch was the political

equivalent of the *Catholicos* of the Christian Church of the East, and was thus responsible for community-specific organizational tasks such as running the rabbinical courts, collecting taxes from Jewish communities, supervising and providing financing for the Talmudic academies in Babylonia, and the charitable re-distribution and financial assistance to needy members of the exile community. The position of exilarch was hereditary, held in continuity by a family that traced its patrilineal descent from antiquity stemming from king David.[1][2][3]

The word *exilarch* is a Greco-Latin calque of the Hebrew *Rosh Galut* (ראש גלות), literally meaning 'head of the exile'.[5] The position was similarly called in Aramaic (ריש גלותא *Reysh Galuta* or *Resh Galvata*) and Arabic (رأس الجالوت *Raas al-Galut*. It was translated into Persian as [6].سر جالوت The Jewish people in exile were referred to as *golah* (Jeremiah 28:6, 29:1) or *galut* (Jeremiah 29:22).

Development and organization[edit]

Although there is no mention about the office before the 2nd century AD, the Seder Olam Zutta alleges that the office of exilarch was established following the deportation of King Jeconiah and his court into exile in Babylon after the first fall of Jerusalem in 597 BC and augmented after the further deportations following the destruction of the kingdom of Judah in 587 BC. The history of the Babylonian exilarchate falls into two separate identifiable periods, before and after the beginning of the Arabic rule in Babylonia. Nothing is known about the office before the 2nd century, when it is first referenced in the Talmud, including any details about its origins. It can merely be said in general that the *golah*, the Jews living in compact masses in various parts of Babylon, tended gradually to unite and create an organization, and that this tendency, together with the high regard in which the descendants of the house of David living in Babylon were held, brought it about that a member of this house was recognized as "head of the *golah*." The dignity became hereditary in this house, and was finally recognized by the state, and hence became an established political institution, first of the Arsacid and then of the Sassanid empire.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Exilarch

jews, history, rome: Antiquities of the Jews

Antiquities of the Jews (Latin: *Antiquitates Iudaicae*; Greek: Ἰουδαϊκὴ ἀρχαιολογία, *Ioudaikē archaiologia*) is a 20-volume historiographical work, written in Greek, by historian Flavius Josephus in the 13th year of the reign of Roman emperor Flavius Domitian which was around CE 93 or 94.[1] *Antiquities of the Jews* contains an account of the history of the Jewish people for Josephus' gentile patrons. In the first ten volumes, Josephus follows the events of the Hebrew Bible beginning with the creation of Adam and Eve.

The second ten volumes continues the history of the Jewish people beyond the biblical text and up to the Jewish War, or the First Jewish–Roman War (66 to 73 CE). This work, along with Josephus's other major work, *The Jewish War* (*De Bello Iudaico*), provides valuable background material for historians wishing to understand 1st-century CE Judaism and the early Christian period.[2]

Background[edit]

See also: Hellenistic Judaism

Beginning in 338 BCE, Alexander the Great began an invasion of the Persian Empire. In 333–332 BCE, Alexander's Macedonian forces conquered the Levant and Palestine. At the time, Judea was home to many Jews who had returned from exile in Babylon thanks to the Persians. At the partition of Alexander's empire in 323 BCE after Alexander's death, the territory was given to what would become Ptolemaic Egypt. Another of the Greek successor states, the Seleucid Empire, would conquer Judea from Egypt during a series of campaigns from 235–198 BCE. During both Ptolemaic and Seleucid rule, many Jews learned Koine Greek, especially upper class Jews and Jewish minorities in towns further afield from Jerusalem and more attached to Greek trading networks.[1] Greek philosophical ideas spread through Palestine as well. A Greek translation of the scriptures, the Septuagint, was also created during the third century BCE. Most Jews adopted dual names with both a Greek name and a Hebrew name, such as Jason and Joshua.[2] Still, many Jews continued to speak the Aramaic language, the language that descended from what was spoken during the Babylonian exile.[3]

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maccabean_Revolt

Intertestamental period

The **intertestamental period** (Protestant) or **deuterocanonical period** (Catholic and Eastern Orthodox) is the period of time between the events of the protocanonical books and the New Testament. Traditionally, it is considered to cover roughly four hundred years, spanning the ministry of Malachi (c. 420 BC) to the appearance of John the Baptist in the early 1st century AD. It is roughly contiguous with the Second Temple period (516 BC-70 AD) and encompasses the age of Hellenistic Judaism.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Intertestamental_period

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Babylonian_captivity

Hellenistic period: the Hellenistic period covers the time in Mediterranean history after Classical Greece, between the death of Alexander the Great in 323 BC and the emergence of the Roman Empire, as signified by the Battle of Actium in 31 BC and the conquest

During the Hellenistic period, Greek cultural influence and power reached its peak in the Mediterranean and beyond. Prosperity and progress in the arts, literature, theatre, architecture, music, mathematics, philosophy, and science characterize the era. The Hellenistic period saw the rise of New Comedy, Alexandrian poetry, translation efforts such as the Septuagint, and the philosophies of Stoicism, Epicureanism, and Pyrrhonism. In science, the works of the mathematician Euclid and the polymath Archimedes are exemplary. The religious sphere expanded to include new gods such as the Greco-Egyptian Serapis, eastern

deities such as Attis and Cybele, and a syncretism between Hellenistic culture and Buddhism in Bactria and Northwest India.

Alexander's empire at the time of its maximum expansion.

Seleucus I Nicator

Portrait of Seleucus I Nicator, Roman artwork or the Imperial era made in a Syrian workshop after a Hellenistic model.Basileus of the Seleucid EmpireReign305[11] – September 281 BCPredecessorAlexander IVSuccessorAntiochus I Soter (co-ruler from c. 292 BC)
Bornc. 358 BC
Europus, Macedon
(modern-day Evropos, Greece)DiedSeptember 281 BC (aged c. 77)

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hellenistic_period

Judea[edit]

Main article: Coele-Syria

Further information: Hellenistic Judaism and Hasmonean dynasty

During the Hellenistic period, Judea became a frontier region between the Seleucid Empire and Ptolemaic Egypt and therefore was often the frontline of the Syrian wars, changing hands several times during these conflicts.[79] Under the Hellenistic kingdoms, Judea was ruled by the hereditary office of the High Priest of Israel as a Hellenistic vassal. This period also saw the rise of a Hellenistic Judaism, which first developed in the Jewish diaspora of Alexandria and Antioch, and then spread to Judea. The major literary product of this cultural syncretism is the Septuagint translation of the Hebrew Bible from Biblical Hebrew and Biblical Aramaic to Koiné Greek. The reason for the production of this translation seems to be that many of the Alexandrian Jews had lost the ability to speak Hebrew and Aramaic.[80]

Rise of Rome[edit]

> This section **needs additional citations for verification**. Please help improve this article by adding citations to reliable sources. Unsourced material may be challenged and removed. *(February 2021) (Learn how and when to remove this template message)*

King Perseus of Macedon in front of Aemilius Paulus by Jean-François Pierre Peyron from 1802 (Museum of Fine Arts, Budapest).

Widespread Roman interference in the Greek world was probably inevitable given the general manner of the ascendancy of the Roman Republic. This Roman-Greek interaction began as a consequence of the Greek city-states located along the coast of southern Italy. Rome had come to dominate the Italian peninsula, and desired the submission of the Greek cities to its rule. Although they initially resisted, allying themselves with Pyrrhus of Epirus, and defeating the Romans at several battles, the Greek cities were unable to maintain this position and were absorbed by the Roman republic. Shortly afterward, Rome became involved in Sicily, fighting against the Carthaginians in the First Punic War. The result was the complete conquest of Sicily, including its previously powerful Greek cities, by the Romans.

After the Second Punic War, the Romans looked to re-assert their influence in the Balkans, and to curb the expansion of Philip V of Macedon. A pretext for war was provided by Philip's refusal to end his war with Attalid Pergamum and Rhodes, both Roman allies.[91] The Romans, also allied with the Aetolian League of Greek city-states (which resented Philip's power), thus declared war on Macedon in 200 BC, starting the Second Macedonian War. This ended with a decisive Roman victory at the Battle of Cynoscephalae (197 BC). Like most Roman peace treaties of the

period, the resultant 'Peace of Flaminius' was designed utterly to crush the power of the defeated party; a massive indemnity was levied, Philip's fleet was surrendered to Rome, and Macedon was effectively returned to its ancient boundaries, losing influence over the city-states of southern Greece, and land in Thrace and Asia Minor. The result was the end of Macedon as a major power in the Mediterranean.

In less than twenty years, Rome had destroyed the power of one of the successor states, crippled another, and firmly entrenched its influence over Greece. This was primarily a result of the over-ambition of the Macedonian kings, and their unintended provocation of Rome, though Rome was quick to exploit the situation. In another twenty years, the Macedonian kingdom was no more. Seeking to re-assert Macedonian power and Greek independence, Philip V's son Perseus incurred the wrath of the Romans, resulting in the Third Macedonian War (171–168 BC). Victorious, the Romans abolished the Macedonian kingdom, replacing it with four puppet republics until it was formally annexed as a Roman province after yet another rebellion under Andriscus. Rome now demanded that the Achaean League, the last stronghold of Greek independence, be dissolved. The Achaeans refused and declared war on Rome. Most of the Greek cities rallied to the Achaeans' side, even slaves were freed to fight for Greek independence. The Roman consul Lucius Mummius advanced from Macedonia and defeated the Greeks at Corinth, which was razed to the ground. In 146 BC, the Greek peninsula, though not the islands, became a Roman protectorate. Roman taxes were imposed, except in Athens and Sparta, and all the cities had to accept rule by Rome's local allies.

The Attalid dynasty of Pergamum lasted little longer; a Roman ally until the end, its final king Attalus III died in 133 BC without an heir, and taking the alliance to its natural conclusion, willed Pergamum to the Roman Republic.[92] The final Greek resistance came in 88 BC, when King Mithridates of Pontus rebelled against Rome, captured Roman held Anatolia, and massacred up to 100,000 Romans and Roman allies across Asia Minor. Many Greek cities, including Athens, overthrew their Roman puppet rulers and joined him in the Mithridatic wars. When he was driven out of Greece by the Roman general Lucius Cornelius Sulla, the latter laid siege to Athens and razed the city. Mithridates was finally defeated by Gnaeus Pompeius Magnus (Pompey the Great) in 65 BC. Further ruin was brought to Greece by the Roman civil wars, which were partly fought in Greece. Finally, in 27 BC, Augustus directly annexed Greece to the new Roman Empire as the province of Achaea. The struggles with Rome had left Greece depopulated and demoralised. Nevertheless, Roman rule at least brought an end to warfare, and cities such as Athens, Corinth, Thessaloniki and Patras soon recovered their prosperity.

Eventually, instability in the near east resulting from the power vacuum left by the collapse of the Seleucid Empire caused the Roman proconsul Pompey the Great to abolish the Seleucid rump state, absorbing much of Syria into

the Roman Republic.[92] Famously, the end of Ptolemaic Egypt came as the final act in the republican civil war between the Roman triumvirs Mark Anthony and Augustus Caesar. After the defeat of Anthony and his lover, the last Ptolemaic monarch, Cleopatra VII, at the Battle of Actium, Augustus invaded Egypt and took it as his own personal fiefdom.[92] He thereby completed the destruction of the Hellenistic kingdoms and transformed the Roman Republic into a monarchy, ending (in hindsight) the Hellenistic era.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hellenistic_period

War, china: feb19 US Ends Search For 2 Airborne Objects Recently Shot Down Over Alaska And Lake Huron:" (That's not weird or suspicious...)", says zh in the intro

The U.S. Northern Command said Friday it recommended to conclude searches for two unidentified objects that were shot down in U.S. airspace earlier this month.

Stats, censorship, vaccine, health, government: feb19

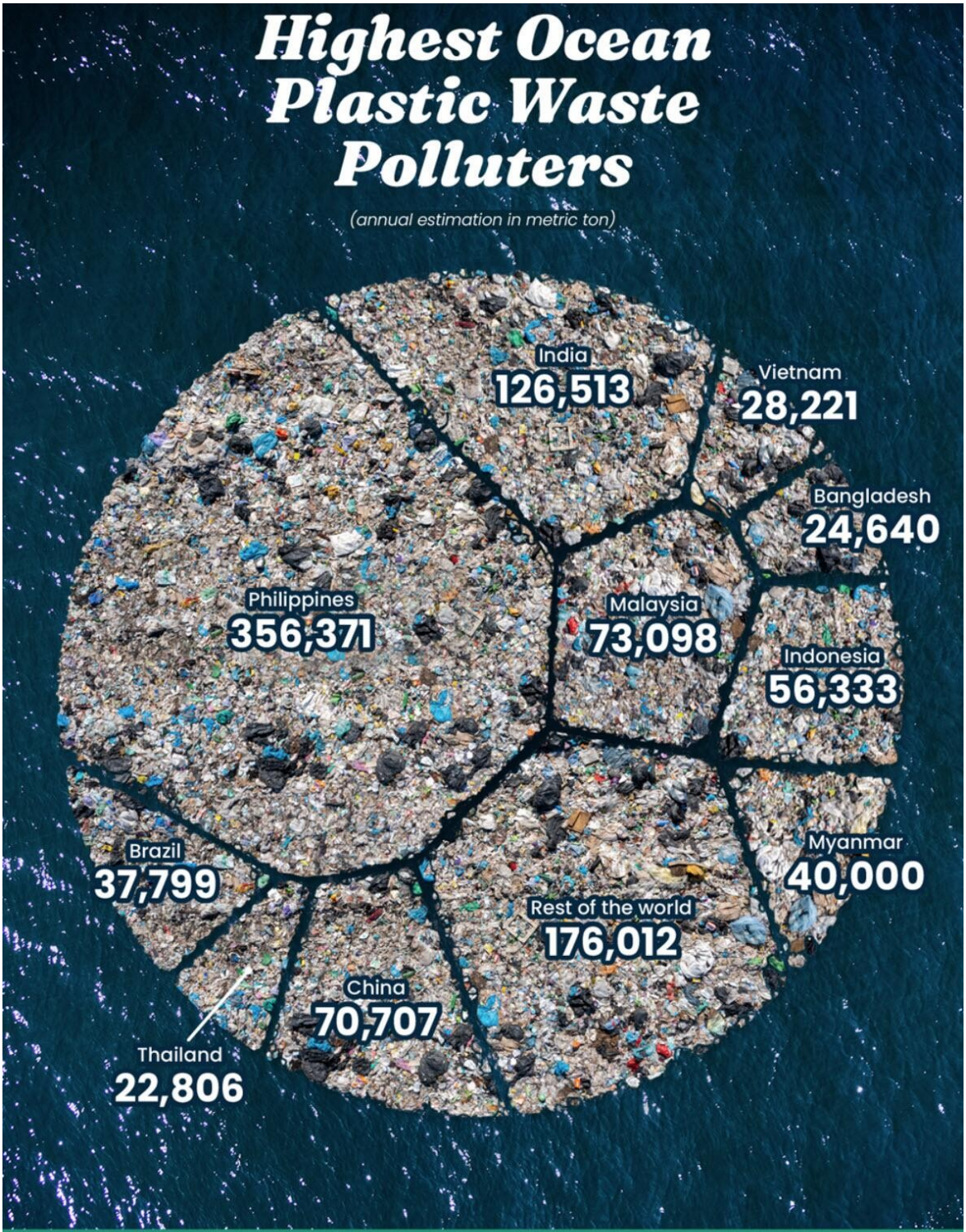
Florida Surgeon General Warns Life-Threatening

VAERS Reports Up 4,400 Percent Since COVID-19 Vaccine Rollout

Florida Surgeon General Joseph Ladapo is sounding the alarm about a 4,400 percent increase in life-threatening conditions reported in the state to the Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS) since the 2021 rollout of the COVID-19 vaccines.

china, war: feb19 **Trudeau Responds To Leaked CSIS Files Saying Beijing Interfered In 2021 Election To Support A Liberal Minority**

Stats, planet: feb19 **biggest plastic pollutors**



It is estimated that 1 million metric tons of plastic waste enters the ocean every year, out of a total of 67.5 million metric tons.

This is particularly prevalent in tropical archipelago regions, which have a higher waste emission due to their relatively small land surface compared to the length of their coastline and high precipitation rates, which increase the likelihood of plastic waste being washed into the ocean.

Graphic: Louis Lugas
Source: *More than 1000 rivers account for 80% of global riverine plastic emissions into the ocean*, Lourens J. J. Meijer et al (2021) via science.org

Rank	Country	Annual Ocean Plastic Waste (Metric tons)
#1	Philippines	356,371
#2	India	126,513
#3	Malaysia	73,098
#4	China	70,707
#5	Indonesia	56,333
#6	Myanmar	40,000
#7	Brazil	37,799
#8	Vietnam	28,221
#9	Bangladesh	24,640
#10	Thailand	22,806
	Rest of the World	176,012
	Total	**1,012,500**

Holy roman empire, government, stats, history, church: Hundred Years' War

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hundred_Years%27_War

Auld Alliance

The **Auld Alliance** (Scots for "Old Alliance"; French: *Vieille Alliance*; Scottish Gaelic: *An Seann-chaidreachas*)[1] was an alliance between the kingdoms of Scotland and France against England made in 1295. The Scots word *auld*, meaning *old*, has become a partly affectionate term for the long-lasting association between the two countries. Although the alliance was never formally revoked, it is considered by some to have ended with the signing of the Treaty of Edinburgh in 1560.[2]

The alliance played a significant role in the relations among Scotland, France and England. The alliance was renewed by all the French and Scottish monarchs of that period except Louis XI.[3] By the late 14th century, the renewal occurred regardless of whether either kingdom was at war with England at the time.[4]

The alliance began with the treaty signed by John Balliol and Philip IV of France in 1295 against Edward I of England. The terms of the treaty stipulated that if either country were attacked by England, the other country would invade English territory. The 1513 Battle of Flodden, where the Scots invaded England in response to the English campaign against France, was one such occasion. Thomas Randolph, Earl of Moray,

negotiated the renewal of the alliance in 1326. The alliance played an important role in the Wars of Scottish Independence, the Hundred Years' War, the War of the League of Cambrai, and the Rough Wooing.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Auld_Alliance

church, history, holy roman empire: The Bohemian Reformation produced the first national church separate from Roman authority in the history of Western Christianity, the first apocalyptic religious movement of the early modern period, and the first pacifist Protestant church.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bohemian_Reformation

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Western_Schism

controversy within the church

Controversy within the Church

Main articles: Western Schism, Bohemian Reformation, and Hussites

Guy of Boulogne crowning Pope Gregory XI in a 15th-century miniature

from Froissart's *Chroniques*

During the tumultuous 14th century, disputes within the leadership of the Church led to the Avignon Papacy of 1309–76,[367] also called the "Babylonian Captivity of the Papacy" (a reference to the Babylonian captivity of the Jews),[368] and then to the Great Schism, lasting from 1378 to 1418, when there were two and later three rival popes, each supported by several states.[369] Ecclesiastical officials convened at the Council of Constance in 1414, and in the following year the council deposed one of the rival popes, leaving only two claimants. Further depositions followed, and in November 1417, the council elected Martin V (pope 1417–31) as pope.[370]

Besides the schism, the Western Church was riven by theological controversies, some of which turned into heresies. John Wycliffe (d. 1384), an English theologian, was condemned as a heretic in 1415 for teaching that the laity should have access to the text of the Bible as well as for holding views on the Eucharist that were contrary to Church doctrine.[371] Wycliffe's teachings influenced two of the major heretical

movements of the later Middle Ages: Lollardy in England and Hussitism in Bohemia.[372] The Bohemian movement initiated with the teaching of Jan Hus, who was burned at the stake in 1415, after being condemned as a heretic by the Council of Constance. The Hussite Church, although the target of a crusade, survived beyond the Middle Ages.[373] Other heresies were manufactured, such as the accusations against the Knights Templar that resulted in their suppression in 1312, and the division of their great wealth between the French King Philip IV (r. 1285–1314) and the Hospitallers.[374]

The papacy further refined the practice in the Mass in the Late Middle Ages, holding that the clergy alone was allowed to partake of the wine in the Eucharist. This further distanced the secular laity from the clergy. The laity continued the practices of pilgrimages, veneration of relics, and belief in the power of the Devil. Mystics such as Meister Eckhart (d. 1327) and Thomas à Kempis (d. 1471) wrote works that taught the laity to focus on their inner spiritual life, which laid the groundwork for the Protestant Reformation. Besides mysticism, belief in witches and witchcraft became widespread, and by the late 15th century the Church had begun to lend credence to populist fears of witchcraft with its condemnation of witches in 1484, and the publication in 1486 of the *Malleus Maleficarum*, the most popular handbook for witch-hunters.[375]

History, rome, church, stats, journal, readlater: Glossary of ancient Roman religion, included etymology of the word "hostia", which was apparently, at least what it describes on wikipedia, the word for 'animal sacrifice'.

H[edit]

hostia[edit]

Ritual implements

The *hostia* was the offering, usually an animal, in a sacrifice. The word is used interchangeably with *victima* by Ovid and others, but some ancient authors attempt to distinguish between the two.[255] Servius says[256] that the *hostia* is sacrificed before battle, the *victima* afterward, which accords with Ovid's etymology in relating the "host" to the "hostiles" or enemy (*hostis*), and the "victim" to the "victor."[257]

The difference between the *victima* and *hostia* is elsewhere said to be a matter of size, with the *hostia* smaller (*minor*).[258] *Hostiae* were also classified by age: *lactentes* were young enough to be still taking milk, but had reached the age to be *purae*; *bidentes* had reached two years of age[259] or had the two longer *(bi-)* incisor teeth *(dentes)* that are an indication of age.[260]

Hostiae could be classified in various ways. A *hostia consultatoria* was an offering for the purpose of consulting with a deity, that is, in order to know the will of a deity; the *hostia animalis*, to increase the force (*mactare*) of the deity.[261]

The victim might also be classified by occasion and timing. The *hostia praecidanea* was an "anticipatory offering" made the day before a sacrifice.[262] It was an advance atonement "to implore divine indulgence" should an error be committed on the day of

the formal sacrifice.[263] A preliminary pig was offered as a *praecidanea* the day before the harvest began.[264] The *hostia praecidanea* was offered to Ceres a day in advance of a religious festival (*sacrum*, before the beginning of the harvest) in expiation for negligences in the duties of piety towards the deceased.[*clarification needed*] The *hostia praesentanaea* was a pig offered to Ceres during a part of the funeral rites conducted within sight of the deceased, whose family was thereby ritually absolved.[265] A *hostia succidanea* was offered at any rite after the first sacrifice had failed owing to a ritual impropriety (*vitium*).[266] Compare *piaculum*, an expiatory offering.

Hostia is the origin of the word "host" for the Eucharistic sacrament of the Western Church; see Sacramental bread: Catholic Church. See also *votum*, a dedication or a vow of an offering to a deity as well as that which fulfilled the vow.

The introduction is also, like exactly what i was looking for..

"For theonyms, or the names and epithets of gods, see List of Roman deities. For public religious holidays, see Roman festivals. For temples see the List of Ancient Roman temples. Individual landmarks of religious topography in ancient Rome are not included in this list; see Roman temple."

I've been scurrying around for more information on roman religion. All I could seem to run into was the official roman cult or something like that. Human sacrifice is the key, likely...

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Roman_deities

More reference to human sacrifice in the worship of the deity, which in christianity, is jesus

Blood of Christ, also known as the **Most Precious Blood**, in Christian theology refers to the physical blood actually shed by Jesus Christ primarily on the Cross, and the salvation which Christianity teaches was accomplished thereby, or the sacramental blood (wine) present in the Eucharist or Lord's Supper, which some Christian denominations believe to be the same blood of Christ shed on the Cross.

The Roman and Eastern Catholic Churches, Eastern Orthodox Church, the Oriental Orthodox churches, the Assyrian and Ancient Churches of the East, and Lutherans, together with high church Anglicans, know this as the real presence of Christ in the Eucharist. The Catholic Church uses the term *transubstantiation* to describe the change of the bread and wine into the body and blood of Christ. The Eastern Orthodox Churches used the same term to describe the change, as in the decrees of the 1672 Synod of Jerusalem,[1] and the Catechism of St. Philaret (Drozdov) of Moscow.[2]

The Lutheran churches follow the teaching of Martin Luther in defining the presence of Christ in the eucharistic elements as sacramental union (often misconstrued as consubstantiation), meaning that the fundamental "substance" of the body and blood of Christ are literally present *alongside* the substance of the bread and wine, which remain present. Lutherans too believe in and teach the Real Presence.
Other Protestant churches reject the idea of the Real Presence; they observe eucharistic rites as simply memorials.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Blood_of_Christ

consecration, or the idea, seems to potentially originate from the idea of sacrifice, because it describes it as: "setting apart" a person, as well as a building or object, for God

Christianity[edit]

Further information: Dedication § Dedication of churches

In Christianity, consecration means "setting apart" a person, as well as a building or object, for God. Among some Christian denominations there is a complementary service of "deconsecration", to remove a consecrated place of its sacred character in preparation for either demolition or sale for secular use.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Consecration

Key word here is "could", as I'm just hypothesizing because I have just started looking into the topic.

The eucharist, as I've just learned now after searching on google, is: " the central act of Christian worship and is practiced by most Christian churches in some form"

That's just the first thing that comes up at the top of the page, but it's good enough for me. See how little I know about Christianity.

And this next qupoteds just further confirms my human sacrifice origins theory..Another one from Blood of Christ.

History[edit]

See also: Communion under both kinds

In the early Church, the faithful received the Eucharist in the form of consecrated bread and wine. Saint Maximus explains that in the Old Law the flesh of the sacrificial victim was shared with the people, but the blood of the sacrifice was merely poured out on the altar. Under the New Law, however, Jesus's blood was the drink shared by all of Christ's faithful. St. Justin Martyr, an early Church Father of the 2nd century, speaks of the Eucharist as the same body and blood of Christ that was present in his Incarnation.

Still don't know enough yet though..

So was just the last sacrifice? Is that what they're saying here?

In Catholic belief, the Blood of Christ is precious because it is Christ's own great ransom paid for the redemption of mankind. In this belief, as there was to be no remission of sin without the shedding of blood, the "Incarnate Word" not only offered his life for the salvation of the world, but he offered to give up his life by a bloody death, and to hang

bloodless, soulless and dead upon the Cross for the salvation of humanity. Jesus is said to have given his life – his blood – for the sake of all humanity, atoning for every form of human sin.[7] The devotion to the Most Precious Blood is thus understood to be a call to repentance and reparation.[8]

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Feast_of_the_Most_Precious_Blood

The fact that after looking into the entirety of rome, reading for weeks about the subject, you still haven't read about human sacrfiice, means you're problably about to fill a massive hole in the puzzle in regards to understanding the essense of their religious practice, something you oddly haven't been able to find much information about yet. Human sacrifiifce, as we all know, is huge part of not just roman history, but throughout all human civilizations/....

And more here:

The term *Communion* is derived from Latin *communio* ("sharing in common"), translated from the Greek κοινωνία (*koinōnía*) in 1 Corinthians 10:16:

The cup of blessing which we bless, **is it not the *communion* of the blood** of Christ? The bread which we break, is it **not the *communion* of the body** of Christ?

— 1 Corinthians 10:16

Communion[edit]

Use of the term *Communion* (or *Holy Communion*) to refer to the Eucharistic rite began by some groups originating in the Protestant Reformation. Others, such as the Catholic Church, do not formally use this term for the rite, but instead mean by it the act of partaking of the consecrated elements;[30] they speak of receiving Holy Communion at Mass or outside of it, they also use the term First Communion when one receives the Eucharist for the first time. The term *Communion* is derived from Latin *communio* ("sharing in common"), translated from the Greek κοινωνία (*koinōnía*) in 1 Corinthians 10:16:

The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not the *communion* of the blood of Christ? The bread which we break, is it not the *communion* of the body of Christ?

— 1 Corinthians 10:16

It's like they're pretending to sacrifice by using jesus--the last man to be allowed to be sacrificed, or something....

Catholic Church[edit]

Main article: Eucharist in the Catholic Church

See also: Mass (liturgy)

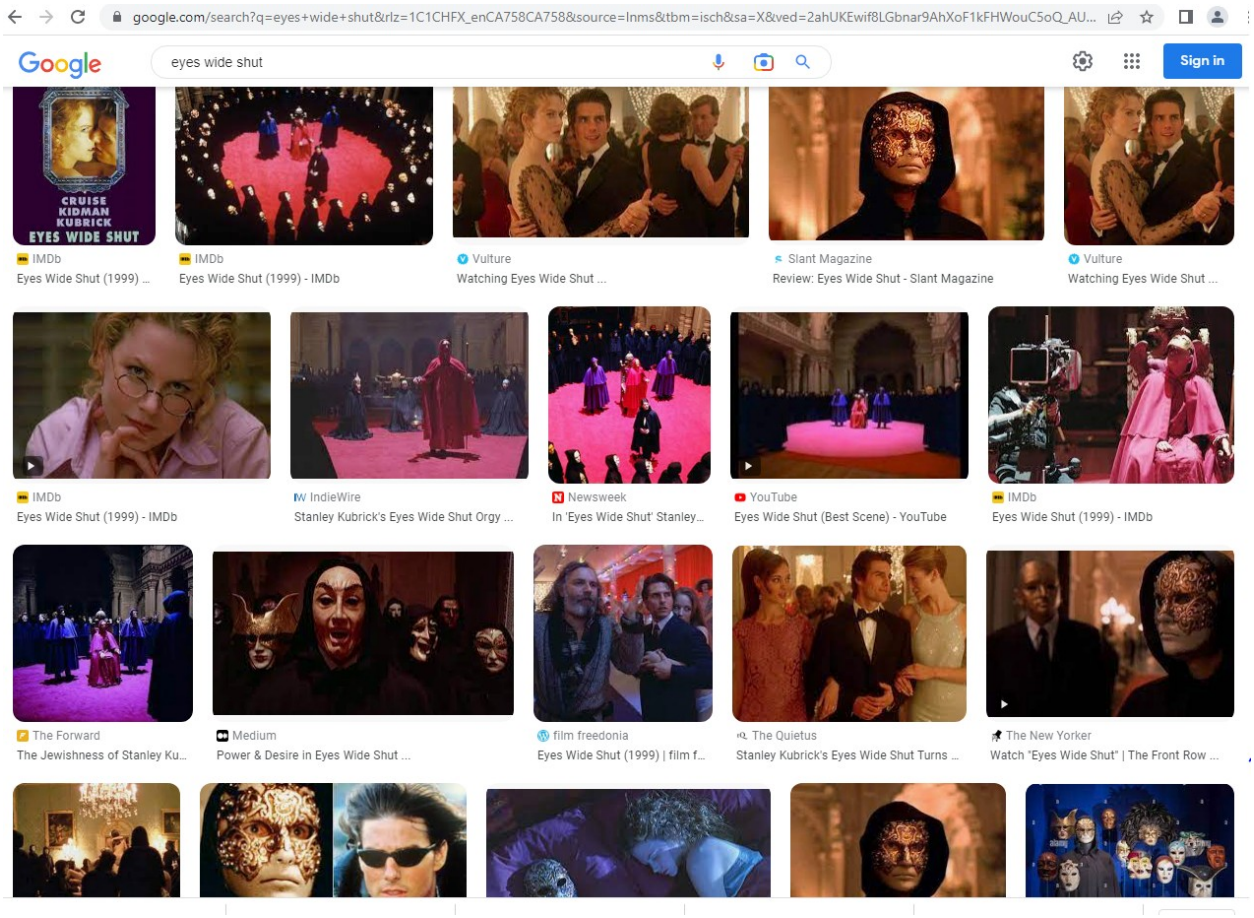
At a Solemn Tridentine Mass, the Host is displayed to the people before Communion.

In the Catholic Church the Eucharist is considered as a sacrament, according to the church the Eucharist is "the source and summit of the Christian life."[81] "The other sacraments, and indeed all ecclesiastical ministries and works of the apostolate, are bound up with the Eucharist and are oriented toward it. For in the blessed Eucharist is contained the whole spiritual good of the Church, namely Christ himself, our Pasch."[82] ("Pasch" is a word that sometimes means Easter, sometimes Passover.)[83]

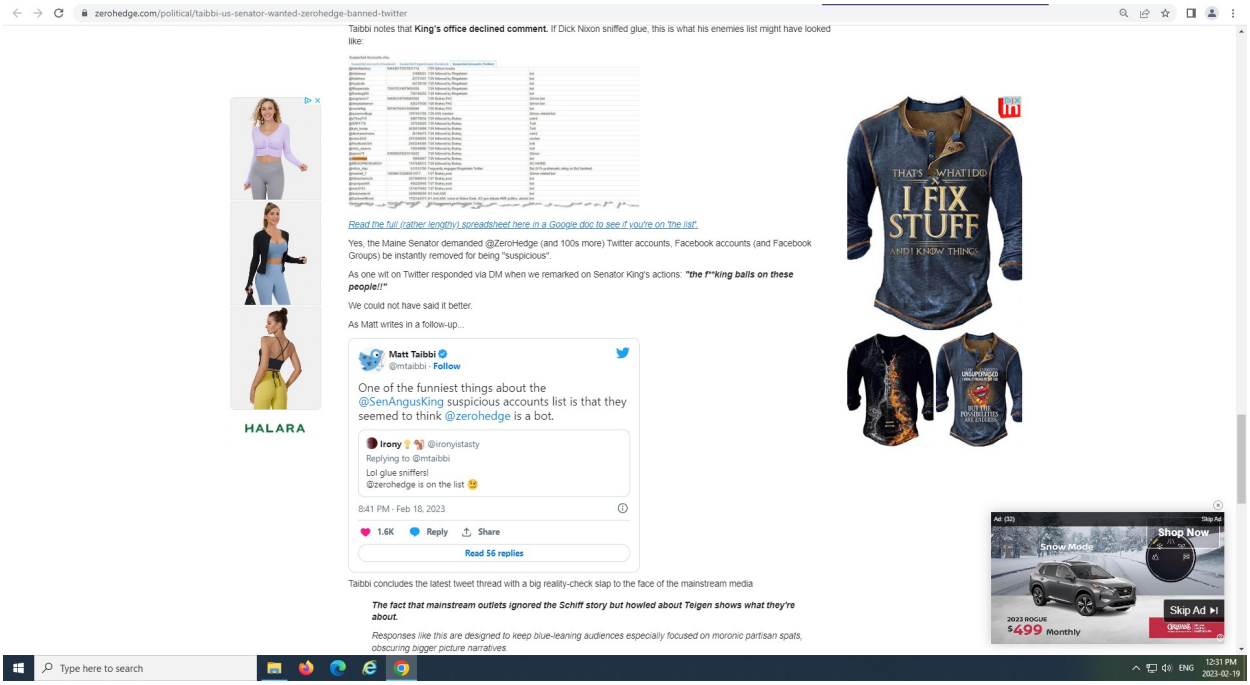
As a sacrifice[edit]

In the Eucharist the same sacrifice that Jesus made only once on the cross is made present at every Mass. According to Compendium of the Catechism of the Catholic Church, "The Eucharist is the very sacrifice of the Body and Blood of the Lord Jesus which he instituted to perpetuate the sacrifice of the cross throughout the ages until his return in glory. Thus he entrusted to his Church this memorial of his death and Resurrection. It is a sign of unity, a bond of charity, a paschal banquet, in which Christ is consumed, the mind is filled with grace, and a pledge of future glory is given to us."[84]

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eucharist



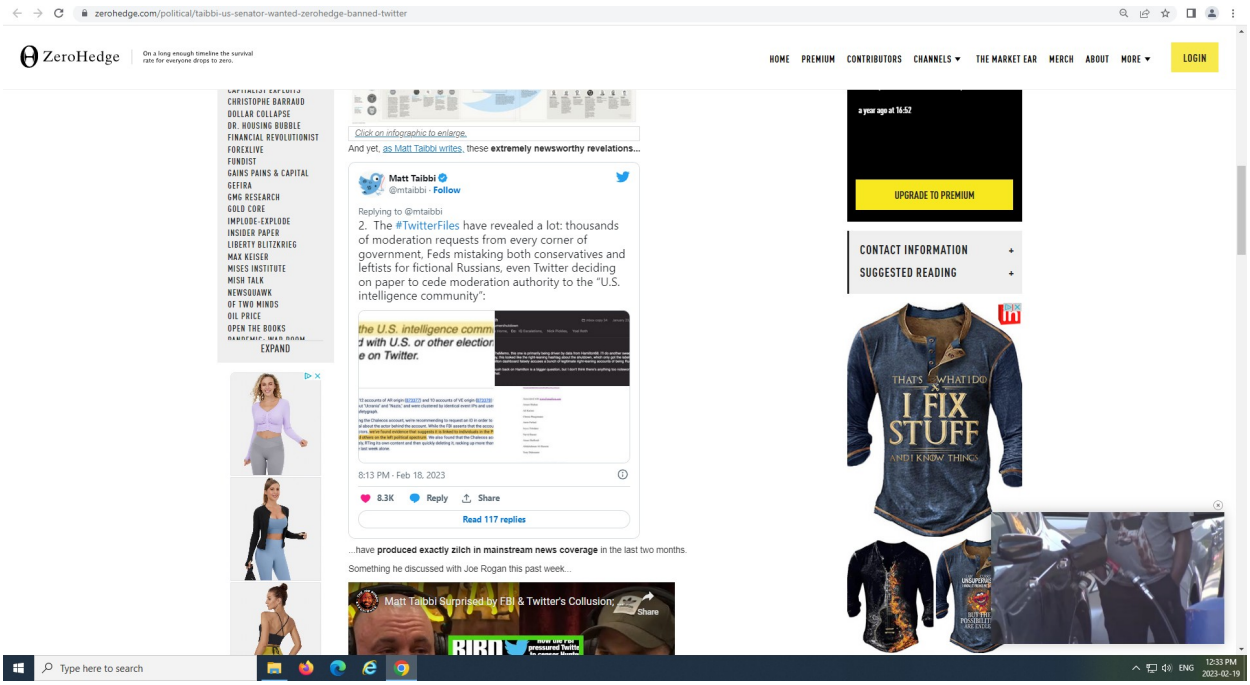
Journal: feb22 Do they still do this? Was that what our eyes are shut to in the movie “eye’s wide shut”—that human sacrifices have always been happening, and more, have never really stopped, even in todays highest echelons of society..


zerohedge.com/political/taibbi-us-senator-wanted-zerohedge-banned-twitter
Taibbi notes that King's office declined comment. If Dick Nixon sniffed glue, this is what his enemies list might have looked like:
Read the full (rather lengthy) spreadsheet here in a Google doc to see if you're on 'the list'.
Yes, the Maine Senator demanded @ZeroHedge (and 100s more) Twitter accounts, Facebook accounts (and Facebook Groups) be instantly removed for being "suspicious".
As one wit on Twitter responded via DM when we remarked on Senator King's actions: "the f**king balls on these people!!"
We could not have said it better.
As Matt writes in a follow-up...
Matt Taibbi @mtaibbi · Follow
One of the funniest things about the @SenAngusKing suspicious accounts list is that they seemed to think @zerohedge is a bot.
Irony @ironyistasty
Replying to @mtaibbi
Lol glue sniffers!
@zerohedge is on the list
8:41 PM · Feb 18, 2023
1.6K Reply Share
Read 56 replies
Taibbi concludes the latest tweet thread with a big reality-check slap to the face of the mainstream media
The fact that mainstream outlets ignored the Schiff story but howled about Teigen shows what they're about.
Responses like this are designed to keep blue-leaning audiences especially focused on moronic partisan spats, obscuring bigger picture narratives.
HALARA
THAT'S WHAT I DO I FIX STUFF AND I KNOW THINGS
Shop Now
Snow Mode
Skip Ad
2023 ROGUE
$499 Monthly
Type here to search
ENG
12:31 PM
2023-02-19

Censorship, government: feb19 **Taibbi: US Senator Wanted ZeroHedge Banned From Twitter. politician calls for zh to be removed from twitter in latest twitter files revelations. actually matt taibbi tweet confirms**

Here’s Maine Senator Angus King writing to Twitter to call a slew of accounts “suspicious” for reasons like:

- “**Rand Paul** visit excitement”
- “**Bot** (averages 20 tweets a day)”
- Being followed by **rival Eric Brakey**
- Or, my personal favorite: “**Mentions immigration.**”

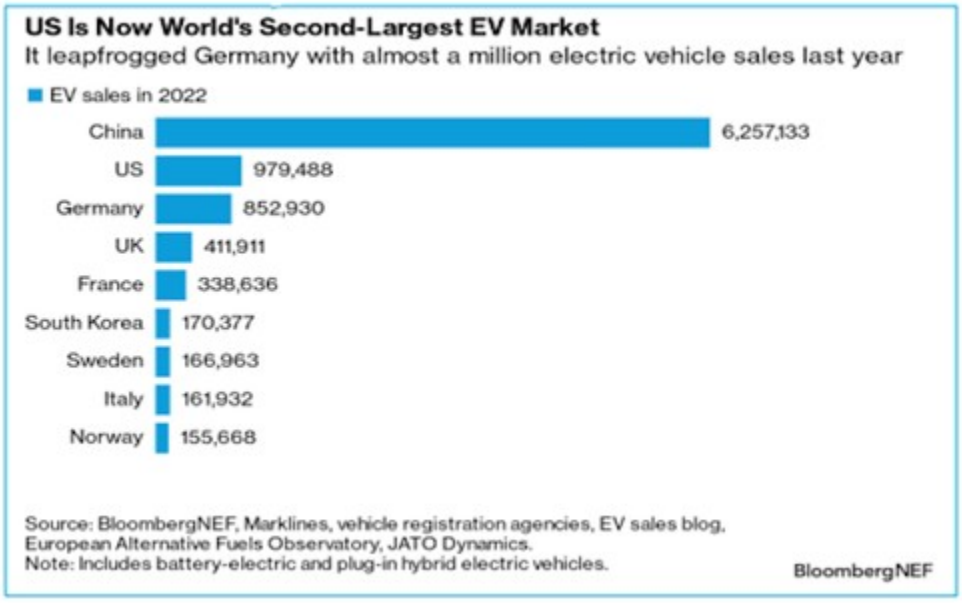

zerohedge.com/political/taibbi-us-senator-wanted-zerohedge-banned-twitter
ZeroHedge
On a long enough timeline the survival rate for everyone drops to zero.
HOME PREMIUM CONTRIBUTORS CHANNELS THE MARKET EAR MERCH ABOUT MORE LOGIN
CHRISTOPHE BARRAUD
DOLLAR COLLAPSE
DR. HOUSING BUBBLE
FINANCIAL REVOLUTIONIST
FORCLIVE
FUNDIST
GAINS PAINS & CAPITAL
GEFIRA
GMG RESEARCH
GOLD CORE
IMPLODE-EXPLODE
INSIDER PAPER
LIBERTY BLITZKRIEG
MAX KEISER
MISES INSTITUTE
MISH TALK
NEWSQUAWK
OF TWO MINDS
OIL PRICE
OPEN THE BOOKS
EXPAND
Click on infographic to enlarge.
And yet, as Matt Taibbi writes, these extremely newsworthy revelations...
Matt Taibbi
@mtaibbi · Follow
Replying to @mtaibbi
2. The #TwitterFiles have revealed a lot: thousands of moderation requests from every corner of government, Feds mistaking both conservatives and leftists for fictional Russians, even Twitter deciding on paper to cede moderation authority to the "U.S. intelligence community":
8:13 PM · Feb 18, 2023
8.3K Reply Share
Read 117 replies
...have produced exactly zilch in mainstream news coverage in the last two months.
Something he discussed with Joe Rogan this past week...
Matt Taibbi Surprised by FBI & Twitter's Collusion
Share
a year ago at 16:52
UPGRADE TO PREMIUM
CONTACT INFORMATION +
SUGGESTED READING +
THAT'S WHAT I DO
I FIX STUFF
AND I KNOW THINGS
Type here to search
ENG
12:33 PM
2023-02-19

Journal: But again, this is just the establishments way of quietly informing the public that they are being watched and moderated by the U.S government, meaning: no different than how the communist Chinese block and censor their citizens on the internet--the very kind of government behaviour we are so quick to decry on the international stage, and even use as justification for the invasion and occupation of foriegn countries.

Stats, Markets, government, energy: feb19 **US Becomes World's Second-Largest EV Market**

China is the largest market for electric vehicles in the world. Germany was the second until the US just displaced Europe's largest economy as EV sales accelerated.

BloombergNEF data shows the US is now the world's second-largest EV market, shifting Germany down to the third spot. Last year, nearly one million EVs were sold in the US, compared with 650,000 in 2021.


US Is Now World's Second-Largest EV Market
It leapfrogged Germany with almost a million electric vehicle sales last year
EV sales in 2022
China 6,257,133
US 979,488
Germany 852,930
UK 411,911
France 338,636
South Korea 170,377
Sweden 166,963
Italy 161,932
Norway 155,668
Source: BloombergNEF, Marklines, vehicle registration agencies, EV sales blog, European Alternative Fuels Observatory, JATO Dynamics.
Note: Includes battery-electric and plug-in hybrid electric vehicles.
BloombergNEF

War, Erdogan: feb18 **Western Media Declares Earthquake Devastation A 'Boon' For Syrian President**

The editorial line adopted by these and several other western outlets is indistinguishable from the official stance of the US government.

referring to these quotes..

"A powerful earthquake last week catapulted Syria's authoritarian president, Bashar al-Assad, into the global spotlight, creating an opportunity for him to inch further back onto the international stage through disaster diplomacy," writes Declan Walsh for the *New York Times* (NYT), before **lamenting how the Syrian leader "received a steady flow of sympathy, aid, and attention from other countries."**

"A tragedy for Syrians is a boon for Assad because nobody else wants to manage this mess," an analyst at the International Institute for Strategic Studies in London told the NYT.

Similarly, *Washington Post* writer Ishaan Tharoor warns that "natural sympathy for the Syrian plight may lead to a regime once ostracized by much of the international community coming out of the cold" before citing members of US and UK-based think tanks who claim Bashar al-Assad is "exploiting" the catastrophe to "rehabilitate his image."

The Economist posits that the choice between helping Syrians or leaving them to continue suffering from the effects of western sanctions is a **"horrible dilemma."**

"Western governments are loth to channel money to Mr. Assad to help him rebuild; they are also anxious to avoid blocking that rebuilding entirely. In working out how to help the people living amid the devastation of Syria while not rehabilitating a blood-soaked regime, there are no easy answers," the historically pro-war outlet concludes.

Scientists reveal sea-ice hits new record low since 1979

Rome, history, church: **Zoroastrianism is an Iranian religion and one of the world's oldest organized faiths, based on the teachings of the Iranian-speaking prophet Zoroaster**

With possible roots dating back to the 2nd millennium BCE, Zoroastrianism enters recorded history around the middle of the 6th century BCE.[10] It served as the state religion of the ancient Iranian empires for more than a millennium (approximately from 600 BCE to 650 CE), but declined from the 7th century CE onwards as a direct result of the Arab-Muslim conquest of Persia (633–654 CE), which led to the large-scale persecution of the Zoroastrian people.[11] Recent estimates place the current number of Zoroastrians in the world at around 110,000–120,000[12] at most, with the majority of this figure living in India, Iran, and North America; their number has been thought to be declining.[13][14]

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zoroastrianism
The period of Sasanian rule is considered to be a high point in Iranian history[15] and in many ways was the peak of ancient Iranian culture before the conquest by Arab Muslims under the Rashidun Caliphate and subsequent Islamization of Iran.

The Sasanian Empire succeeded the Parthian Empire, and re-established the Persians as a major power in late antiquity alongside its neighbouring arch-rival, the Roman Empire (after 395 the Byzantine Empire).[11][12][13]
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sasanian_Empire

fall of rome, church, history, readlater: Nicholas of Myra, seed of the Santa Claus legends, attended the council of niceae

Other remarkable attendees were Eusebius of Nicomedia; Eusebius of Caesarea, the purported first church historian; circumstances suggest that Nicholas of Myra attended (his life was the seed of the Santa Claus legends); Macarius of Jerusalem, later a staunch defender of Athanasius; Aristaces of Armenia (son of Saint Gregory the Illuminator); Leontius of Caesarea; Jacob of Nisibis, a former hermit; Hypatius of Gangra; Protogenes of Sardica; Melitius of Sebastopolis; Achilleus of Larissa (considered the

Athanasius of Thessaly);[37] and Spyridon of Trimythous, who even while a bishop made his living as a shepherd.[38] From foreign places came John, bishop of Persia and India,[39] Theophilus, a Gothic bishop, and Stratophilus, bishop of Pitiunt in Georgia. The Latin-speaking provinces sent at least five representatives: Marcus of Calabria from Italia, Cecilian of Carthage from Africa, Hosius of Córdoba from Hispania, Nicasius of Die from Gaul,[37] and Domnus of Sirmium from the province of the Danube. Athanasius of Alexandria, a young deacon and companion of Bishop Alexander of Alexandria, was among the assistants. Athanasius eventually spent most of his life battling against Arianism. Alexander of Constantinople, then a presbyter, was also present as representative of his aged bishop.[37]

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/First_Council_of_Nicaea
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Saint_Nicholas

council of nicaea was convened in response to heretic teachings, notably by Arius of Alexandria: "

Arian controversy[edit]

Main articles: Arius, Arianism, and Arian controversy

The synod of Nicaea, Constantine and the condemnation and burning of Arian books, illustration from a northern Italian compendium of canon law, c. 825

The Arian controversy arose in Alexandria when the newly reinstated presbyter Arius[53] began to spread doctrinal views that were contrary to those of his bishop, Alexander of Alexandria. The disputed issues centered on the natures and relationship of God (the Father) and the Son of God (Jesus). The disagreements sprang from different ideas about the Godhead and what it meant for Jesus to be God's Son. Alexander maintained that the Son was divine in just the same sense that the Father is, coeternal with the Father, else he could not be a true Son.[13][54]

Arius emphasized the supremacy and uniqueness of God the Father, meaning that the Father alone is almighty and infinite, and that therefore the Father's divinity must be greater than the Son's. Arius taught that the Son had a beginning and that he possessed neither the eternity nor the true divinity of the Father, but was rather made

"God" only by the Father's permission and power, and that the Son was rather the first and the most perfect of God's creatures.[13][54]

The Arian discussions and debates at the Council extended from about 20 May through about 19 June.[54] According to legendary accounts, debate became so heated that at one point, Arius was struck in the face by Nicholas of Myra, who would later be canonized.[55] This account is almost certainly apocryphal, as Arius would not have been present in the council chamber because he was not a bishop.[56]

Much of the debate hinged on the difference between being "born" or "created" and being "begotten". Arians saw these as essentially the same; followers of Alexander did not. The exact meaning of many of the words used in the debates at Nicaea were still unclear to speakers of other languages. Greek words like "essence" (*ousia*), "substance" (*hypostasis*), "nature" (*physis*), "person" (*prosopon*) bore a variety of meanings drawn from pre-Christian philosophers, which could not but entail misunderstandings until they were cleared up. The word *homoousia*, in particular, was initially disliked by many bishops because of its associations with Gnostics (who used it in their theology), and because their beliefs had been condemned at the 264–268 Synods of Antioch.

Arguments for Arianism[edit]

According to surviving accounts, the presbyter Arius argued for the supremacy of God the Father, and maintained that the Son of God was created as an act of the Father's will, and therefore that the Son was a creature made by God, begotten directly of the infinite eternal God. Arius's argument was that the Son was God's first production, before all ages, the position being that the Son had a beginning, and that only the Father has no beginning. Arius argued that everything else was created through the Son. Thus, said the Arians, only the Son was directly created and begotten of God; and therefore there was a time that he had no existence. Arius believed that the Son of God was capable of his own free will of right and wrong, and that "were He in the truest sense a son, He must have come after the Father, therefore the time obviously was when He was not, and hence He was a finite being",[57] and that he was under God the Father. Therefore, Arius insisted that the Father's divinity was greater than the Son's. The Arians appealed to Scripture, quoting biblical statements such as "the Father is greater than I" (John 14:28),[58] and also that the Son is "firstborn of all creation" (Colossians 1:15).[59]

Character and purpose[edit]

File:Byzantinischer Mosaizist um 1000 002.jpg

Constantine the Great summoned the bishops of the Christian Church to Nicaea to address divisions in the Church (mosaic in Hagia Sophia, Constantinople (Istanbul), c. 1000).

The First Council of Nicaea, the first general council in the history of the Church, was convened by the Roman Emperor Constantine the Great upon the recommendations of a synod led by Bishop Hosius of Corduba in the Eastertide of 325, or rather convened by Hosius and supported by Constantine.[18] This synod had been charged with investigation of the trouble brought about by the Arian controversy in the Greek-speaking east.[19] To most bishops, the teachings of Arius were heretical and dangerous to the salvation of souls.[20] In the summer of 325, the bishops of all provinces were summoned to Nicaea, a place reasonably accessible to many delegates. According to Warren H. Carroll, in the

Council of Nicaea, "the Church had taken her first great step to define revealed doctrine more precisely in response to a challenge from a heretical theology."[21]

Procedure[edit]

The Council was formally opened 20 May 325, in the central structure of the imperial palace at Nicaea, with preliminary discussions of the Arian question. Emperor Constantine arrived nearly a month later on 14 June.[51] In these discussions, some dominant figures were Arius, with several adherents. "Some 22 of the bishops at the Council, led by Eusebius of Nicomedia, came as supporters of Arius. But when some of the more shocking passages from his writings were read, they were almost universally seen as blasphemous."[4] Bishops Theognis of Nicaea and Maris of Chalcedon were among the initial supporters of Arius.

Eusebius of Caesarea called to mind the baptismal creed of his own diocese at Caesarea at Palestine, as a form of reconciliation. The majority of the bishops agreed. For some time, scholars thought that the original Nicene Creed was based on this statement of Eusebius. Today, most scholars think that the creed is derived from the baptismal creed of Jerusalem, as Hans Lietzmann proposes.[52]

The orthodox bishops won approval of every one of their proposals regarding the creed. After being in session for an entire month, the Council promulgated on 19 June the original Nicene Creed. This profession of faith was adopted by all the bishops "but two from Libya who had been closely associated with Arius from the beginning".[21] No explicit historical record of their dissent actually exists; the signatures of these bishops are simply absent from the creed. The sessions continued to deal with minor matters until 25 August.[51]

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/First_Council_of_Nicaea

Canons of the Council of Nicaea - 325 can be specifically quoted mentioning "castration by barbarians". Why it was mentioned, I don't think matters...The point that it would even be mentioned at all is what's, I think at least, is what's truly important...

Journal, readlater, history: What came first: the chicken, or the egg?

For other uses, see Arius (disambiguation).

ARIUS HÆRESIARCHA SÆCULI QUARTI.
Expressa ex Hartmanno Schedel
de Temporibus Mundi pag 131. editionis
Nurembergæ 1493.

Arius arguing for the supremacy of God the Father, and that the Son had a beginning as a true Firstborn

Born	256 Ptolemais, Cyrenaica, Roman Empire (modern-day Tolmeita, Libya)
Died	336 (aged 80) Constantinople, Thracia, Roman Empire (modern-day Istanbul, Turkey)
Occupation	Presbyter
Notable work	*Thalia*
	Theological work
Era	3rd and 4th centuries AD
Language	Koine Greek

Tradition or movement	Arianism
Notable ideas	Subordinationism

Part of a series of articles on

Arianism

History and theology

- Arius
- Acacians
- Anomoeanism
- Arian controversy
- Arian creeds
- First Council of Nicaea
- Gothic Christianity
- Gothic Bible (*Codex Argenteus*)
- Lucian of Antioch
- Semi-Arianism

Arian leaders

- Acacius of Caesarea
- Aëtius of Antioch
- Demophilus of Constantinople
- Eudoxius of Antioch
- Eunomius of Cyzicus
- Eusebius of Nicomedia
- Eustathius of Sebaste
- George of Laodicea
- Wulfila

Other Arians

- Asterius of Cappadocia
- Auxentius of Milan
- Auxentius of Durostorum
- Constantius II
- Gothic persecution of Christians
- Fritigern
- Alaric I
- Artemius
- Odoacer
- Theodoric the Great

Modern semi-Arians

- Samuel Clarke
- Isaac Newton
- William Whiston

Opponents

- Peter of Alexandria
- Achillas of Alexandria
- Alexander of Alexandria
- Hosius of Corduba
- Athanasius of Alexandria
- Paul I of Constantinople
- Nicholas of Myrra

Christianity portal

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Arius (/əˈraɪəs, ˈɛəri-/; Koinē Greek: Ἄρειος, *Áreios*; 250 or 256 – 336) was a Cyrenaic presbyter, ascetic, and priest best known for the doctrine of Arianism.[1][2] His teachings about the nature of the Godhead in Christianity, which emphasized God the Father's uniqueness and Christ's subordination under the Father,[3] and his opposition to what would become the dominant Christology, Homoousian Christology, made him a primary topic of the First Council of Nicaea convened by Emperor Constantine the Great in 325.

After Emperors Licinius and Constantine legalized and formalized the Christianity of the time in the Roman Empire, Constantine sought to unify the newly recognized Church and remove theological divisions.[4] The Christian Church was divided over disagreements on Christology, or the nature of the relationship between the first and second persons of the Trinity. Homoousian Christians, including Athanasius of Alexandria, used Arius and Arianism as epithets to describe those who disagreed with their doctrine of coequal Trinitarianism, a Christology representing God the Father and Jesus Christ the Son as "of one essence" ("consubstantial") and coeternal.

Negative writings[*jargon*] describe Arius's theology as one imputing there was a time before the Son of God existed—that is, when only God the Father existed. Despite concerted opposition, Arian Christian churches persisted for centuries throughout Europe (especially in various Germanic kingdoms), the Middle East, and North Africa. They were suppressed by military conquest or by voluntary royal conversion between the fifth and seventh centuries.

The Son's precise relationship with the Father had been discussed for decades before Arius's advent; Arius intensified the controversy and carried it to a Church-wide audience, where others like Eusebius of Nicomedia proved much more influential in the long run. In fact, some later Arians disavowed the name, claiming not to have been familiar with the man or his specific teachings.[5][6] However, because the conflict between Arius and his foes brought the issue to the theological forefront, the doctrine they said he proclaimed—though he had definitely not originated—is generally labeled as "his".

The Arian controversy[edit]

Main article: Arianism

Beginnings[edit]

The Trinitarian historian Socrates of Constantinople reports that Arius sparked the controversy that bears his name when Alexander of Alexandria, who had succeeded Achillas as the Bishop of Alexandria, gave a sermon stating the similarity of the Son to the Father. Arius interpreted Alexander's speech as being a revival of Sabellianism, condemned it, and then argued that "if the Father begat the Son, he that was begotten had a beginning of existence: and from this it is evident, that there was a time when the Son was not. It therefore necessarily follows, that he [the Son] had his substance from nothing."[13] This quote describes the essence of Arius's doctrine.

Socrates of Constantinople believed that Arius was influenced in his thinking by the teachings of Lucian of Antioch, a celebrated Christian teacher and martyr. In a letter to Patriarch Alexander of Constantinople Arius's bishop, Alexander of Alexandria, wrote that Arius derived his theology from Lucian. The express purpose of the letter was to complain about the doctrines that Arius was spreading, but his charge of heresy against

Arius is vague and unsupported by other authorities. Furthermore, Alexander's language, like that of most controversialists in those days, is quite bitter and abusive. Moreover, even Alexander never accused Lucian of having taught Arianism; rather, he accused Lucian *ad invidiam* of heretical tendencies—which apparently, according to him, were transferred to his pupil, Arius.[14] The noted Russian historian Alexander Vasiliev refers to Lucian as "the Arius before Arius".[15]

Origen and Arius[edit]

Like many third-century Christian scholars, Arius was influenced by the writings of Origen, widely regarded as the first great theologian of Christianity.[16] However, while both agreed on the subordination of the Son to the Father, and Arius drew support from Origen's theories on the *Logos*, the two did not agree on everything. Arius clearly argued that the *Logos* had a beginning and that the Son, therefore, was not eternal, the Logos being the highest of the Created Order. This idea is summarized in the statement "there was a time when the Son was not." By way of contrast, Origen believed the relation of the Son to the Father had no beginning, and that the Son was "eternally generated".[17]

Arius objected to Origen's doctrine, complaining about it in his letter to the Nicomedian Eusebius, who had also studied under Lucian. Nevertheless, despite disagreeing with Origen on this point, Arius found solace in his writings, which used expressions that favored Arius's contention that the *Logos* was of a different substance than the Father, and owed his existence to his Father's will. However, because Origen's theological speculations were often proffered to stimulate further inquiry rather than to put an end to any given dispute, both Arius and his opponents were able to invoke the authority of this revered (at the time) theologian during their debate.[18]

Arius emphasized the supremacy and uniqueness of God the Father, meaning that the Father alone is infinite and eternal and almighty, and that therefore the Father's divinity must be greater than the Son's. Arius taught that the Son had a beginning, contrary to Origen, who taught that the Son was less than the Father only in power, but not in time. Arius maintained that the Son possessed neither the eternity nor the true divinity of the Father, but was rather made "God" only by the Father's permission and power, and that the Logos was rather the very first and the most perfect of God's productions, before ages.[19][20]

Initial responses[edit]

The Bishop of Alexandria exiled the presbyter following a council of local priests. Arius's supporters vehemently protested. Numerous bishops and Christian leaders of the era supported his cause, among them Eusebius of Nicomedia, who baptized Constantine the Great.[21]

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arius

church, history: the codex sassoon, oldest hebrew bible existing, named after a member of the sassoon family, who was the last legal private owner before it was obtained by recognized jewish museum

Damascus Pentateuch

2 languages

- Article
- Talk
- Read
- Edit
- View history

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Page from *Damascus Pentateuch*, Exodus 25:23-35

The **Damascus Pentateuch** (Hebrew: כֶּתֶר דַּמֶּשֶׂק ***Keter Dameseq*** or **Crown of Damascus**) or **Codex Sassoon 507** is a 10th-century Hebrew Bible codex, consisting of the almost complete Pentateuch,[1] the Five Books of Moses. The codex was copied by an unknown scribe, replete with Masoretic annotations. The beginning of the manuscript is damaged: it starts with Genesis 9:26, and Exodus 18:1–23 is also missing. In 1975 it was acquired by the Jewish National and University Library, Jerusalem (from 2008 "National Library of Israel").[2] The codex was published in a large, two-volume facsimile edition in 1978.[3]

It is distinct from the 13th-century Damascus Crown (*Damascus Keter*) of Spanish origin, a manuscript containing 24 canonical books. It is also distinct from the privately-owned Codex Sassoon 1053.

Vaccine, government, censorship: feb18 **New Medical Codes For COVID Vaccination Status Raise Concerns Among Experts**

New medical diagnosis codes for COVID-19 immunization status have been added in the United States.

One code is for being “unvaccinated for COVID-19.”

That code “may be assigned when the patient has not received at least one dose of any COVID-19 vaccine,” the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), which implemented the new codes in 2022, states in a document outlining the codes.

Another code is for being partially vaccinated or having received at least one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine but not having received enough doses to meet the CDC’s definition of fully vaccinated.

The goal of the codes is “to track people who are not immunized or only partially immunized,” according to the CDC.

Experts say the codes don’t fit with the International Classification of Diseases, which has diagnoses for diseases and reasons for health care visits.

“**They’re treating nonvaccination as if this is a hazardous exposure that therefore merits being recorded as a medical exposure**,” Dr. Harvey Risch, professor emeritus of epidemiology at the Yale School of Public Health, told The Epoch Times. “That’s never been done to my knowledge.”

The CDC did not respond to requests for comment for this article.

Proposal

The CDC proposed adding the codes to the international classification in September 2021.

“**People have now been having immunizations for a number of months, and these provide protection for people who are immunized, but there has been interest expressed in being able to track people who are not immunized or who are only partially immunized**,” Dr. David Berglund, a CDC medical officer, said during a meeting that went over the proposal.

“At the current time, there can be considered to be a significant modifiable risk factor for morbidity and for mortality and it can be of interest for clinical reasons, as well as being a value for public health reasons, to be able to track this.”

COVID-19 hospitalization and death rates are higher among the unvaccinated, according to data published by the CDC. The data do not take into account key factors such as age or prior infection, and other figures show the vaccinated being hospitalized or dying at higher rates in some states.

The proposal was backed by meeting participants during the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10) Coordination and Maintenance Committee meeting.

“**I definitely think we would support this**,” Kristin Balint, a supervisor at Trinity Health, said. “**We are currently seeing physicians documenting unimmunized for COVID-19 in our records.**”

Jeanne Yoder, representing the Defense Health Agency, envisioned adding additional codes later to indicate if a person was not vaccinated against each successive variant.

The organizations of the people who backed the proposal either did not respond to requests for comment or declined inquiries.

Codes Added

Three codes were added to the classification system on April 1, 2022.

Z28.310 is for being unvaccinated. Z28.311 is for being partially vaccinated. Z28.39 is for “other underimmunization status.” All fell under a new sub-sub category, “Underimmunization for COVID-19 status.”

*Read more **here...***

Ai, tech: feb18 Those Who 'Master' Artificial Intelligence, Synthetic Biology Will Be "Master Of The World": Klaus Schwab

War: feb18 No Military Winner Likely In Ukraine Conflict, Will End In Future Negotiations: Gen. Milley

War, middle east: feb18 Israeli-Owned Tanker Reportedly Attacked By Iranian Drones In Persian Gulf

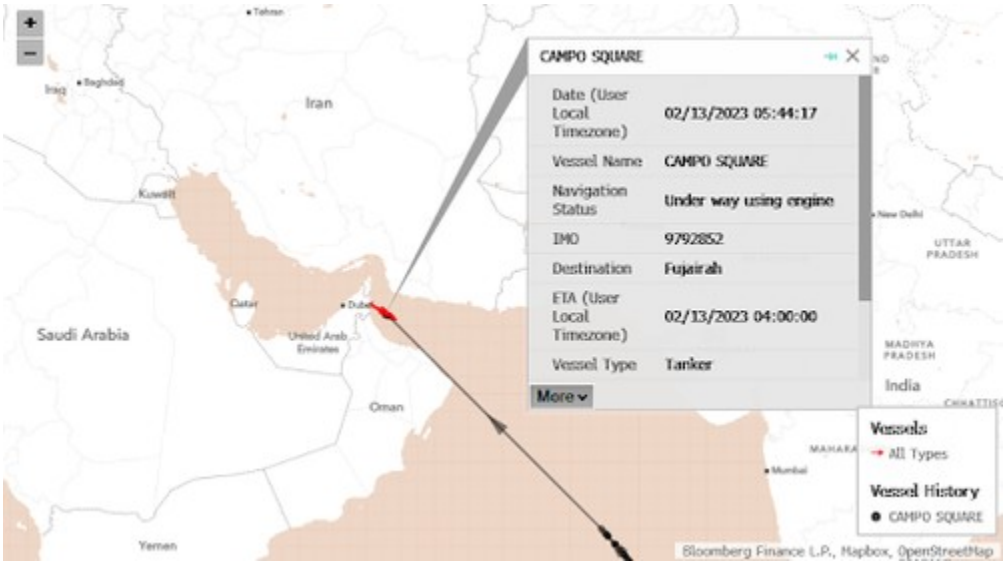
Israeli media on Friday revealed a major incident in the Persian Gulf involving an alleged attack on an Israeli owned oil tanker. The BBC's Persian language service was the first to allude to it, while the Saudi newspaper *Elaph* also reported it, and the reports indicate it occurred last week but is only now being revealed.

"Foreign officials said on Friday evening that the Iranian Revolutionary Guards Corps launched **a Shahed 136-type drone in the Persian Gulf towards the Campo Square oil tanker**, which is owned by Israeli businessman Eyal Ofer," *Israel National News Arutz Sheva* reports.

The tanker sails under the Liberian flag, but Israeli defense officials presented the attack as a retaliation attempt for past alleged Israeli operations against Iran, and described no injuries.

It's not the first instance of such an alleged Iranian drone operation against tankers in these waters, with a November incident also believed an IRGC military operation to target Israeli shipping.

The Islamic Republic and Israel have long been in a de facto state of war, especially given prior years' mysterious sabotage incidents of military sites inside Iran, as well as **assassinations of top Iranian nuclear scientists**.



Concerning the November incident wherein a projectile hit a tanker off the coast of Oman, the AP noted at the time, "While no one immediately claimed responsibility for the attack, suspicion immediately fell on Iran. Tehran and Israel have been engaged in a **years long shadow war** in the wider Middle East, with some drone attacks targeting Israeli-associated vessels traveling around the region."

Stats, censorship, government, vaccine, health: feb18 The AMA Said 'Trust Your Doctor' On Smoking; Yes, Bayer Promoted Heroin for Children -- Here Are The Ads That Prove It;

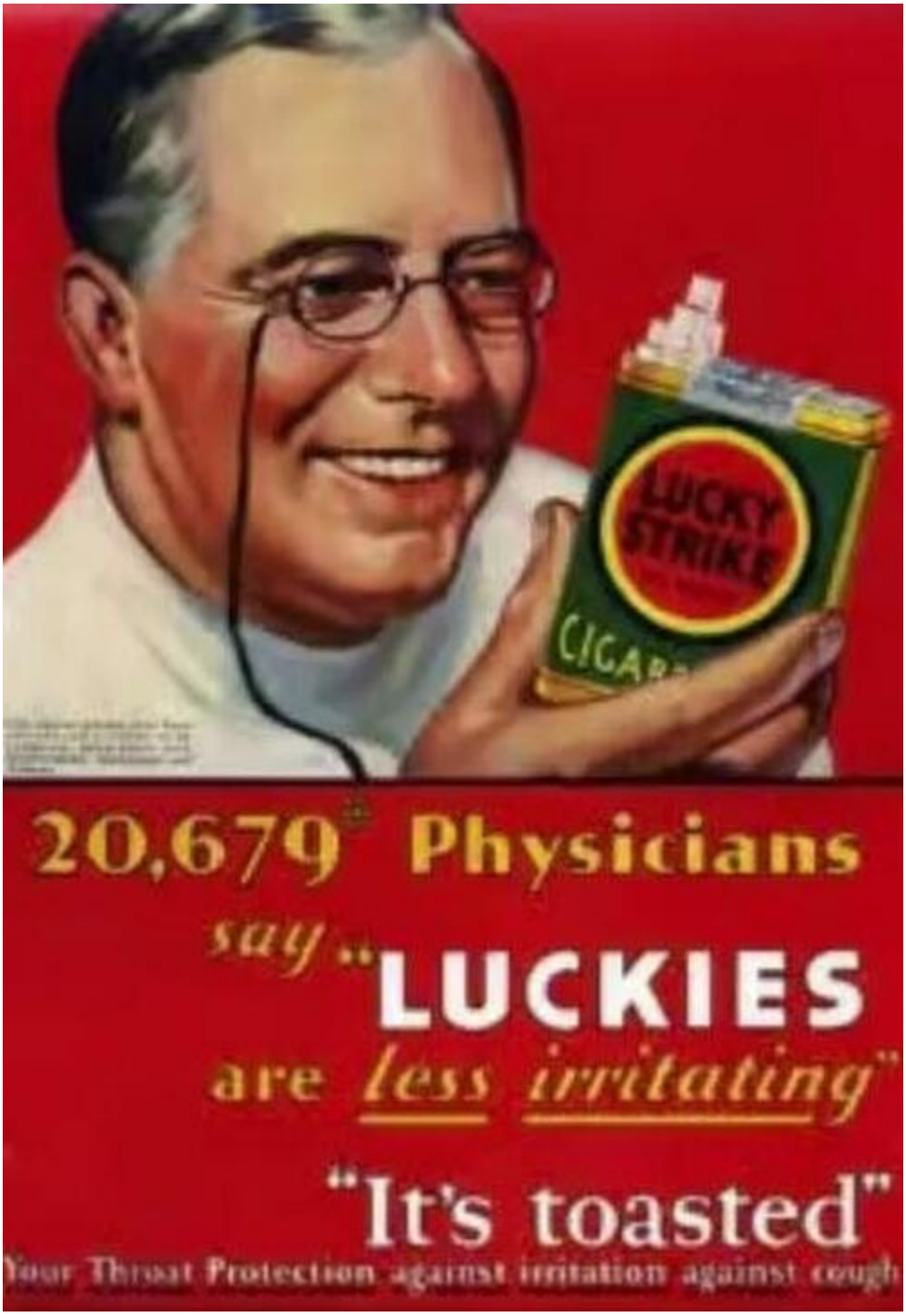
Authored by Kevin Homer via The Brownstone Institute,

The American Medical Association (AMA) urges physicians to promote COVID-19 vaccines and bivalent boosters.

The AMA even supplies members with social media talking points and strategies to deal with vaccine detractors.

It is not the first time that my profession has endorsed a product that may be hazardous to your health.

For most of the 20th century, the AMA turned a blind eye toward the dangers of tobacco use. During the 1930s, 40s and 50s, tobacco companies paid handsomely to advertise cigarettes in AMA's journal, *JAMA*. In a 1948 editorial minimizing the ill effects of smoking and justifying tobacco advertising in its publications, *JAMA* noted that "cigarette business is a tremendous business," as if the size of the bottom line can mitigate a conflict for an organization founded for the "betterment of public health."



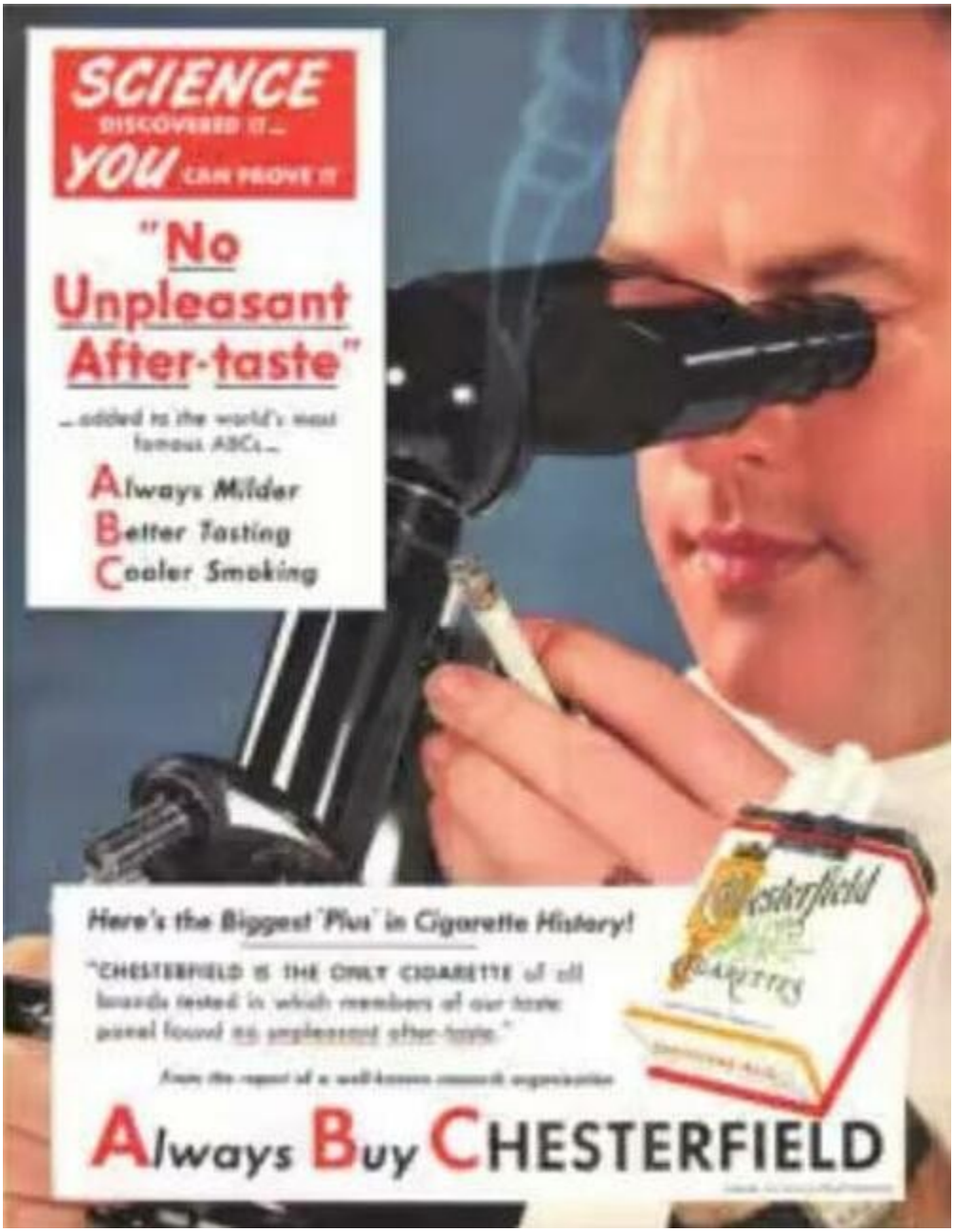
The connection between smoking and lung cancer was recognized early in the century. At the same time, the AMA became increasingly dependent on money generated by tobacco sales. Tobacco companies sponsored meetings of medical societies, setting up their booths alongside exhibitions of the latest medical treatments. Free cartons were distributed at physician meetings. **Cigarette makers even paid for publication of pseudoscientific reports claiming the health benefits of their products.**

Doctors who opposed smoking faced ridicule from their colleagues. Dr. Alton Ochsner, a renowned surgeon and sentinel voice warning of the dangers of tobacco, began publishing on the connection between smoking and lung cancer in the early 1940s. His 1954 book *Smoking and Cancer: A Doctor's Report* was negatively reviewed in prominent medical journals, characterized as a medieval model of logic that belongs in the nonscience section of a library. Prior to his appearance on *Meet the Press*, Dr. Ochsner was told he could not discuss the relationship between smoking and lung cancer on air.

Yet the mounting evidence was hard to ignore. In 1954, *JAMA* stopped accepting cigarette advertisements and published an editorial rebuking tobacco company advertising practices. But five years later, a *JAMA* editorial was still skeptical of

the evidence linking smoking to cancer, and a 1961 *Nebraska State Medical Journal* editorial dismissed the evidence as merely “statistical.” Tobacco companies continued to sponsor state medical meetings as late as 1969. By then most people were aware of the dangers of smoking.

In 1964, the Surgeon General concluded that cigarette smoking causes lung cancer and other life-limiting health conditions. The next year, a warning label was required on packages of cigarettes. By 1971, the government banned cigarette advertisements on television and radio. Instead of taking the lead against an obvious threat to public health, the AMA asked for time and money to study the effects of tobacco.



Between 1964 and 1976, the AMA received more than $20 million from the tobacco industry to fund research. Instead of using the money for smoking cessation programs, many of the funded studies focused on ways to make a safer cigarette. To keep money flowing into its Education and Research Foundation the AMA delayed, stating in a confidential 1971 report that, "AMA is not prepared to make any statement regarding termination of the smoking-health research program." The report went on to complain that tobacco companies are "in arrears on 1970 contributions." The dependency on tobacco money created a political alliance between doctors and cigarette makers as their lobbyists joined forces in Washington.

The delay benefitted tobacco sales and maintained the AMA's "research" payments, but it angered Dr. Ochsner, who accused the AMA of being derelict. The AMA called Dr. Ochsner's position "extreme." But name-calling could not stall the inevitable conclusion any longer. In 1978 the AMA finally agreed with what most people had already realized: smoking causes lung cancer, and many other health problems. The romance with big tobacco was over.

Or was it?

As late as 1982, *JAMA* publications were warned to steer clear of "politically sensitive" topics like tobacco use. After most of a century of being on the tobacco dole, the AMA could not make a clean break. The AMA portfolio contained investments in tobacco companies until the late 1990s.

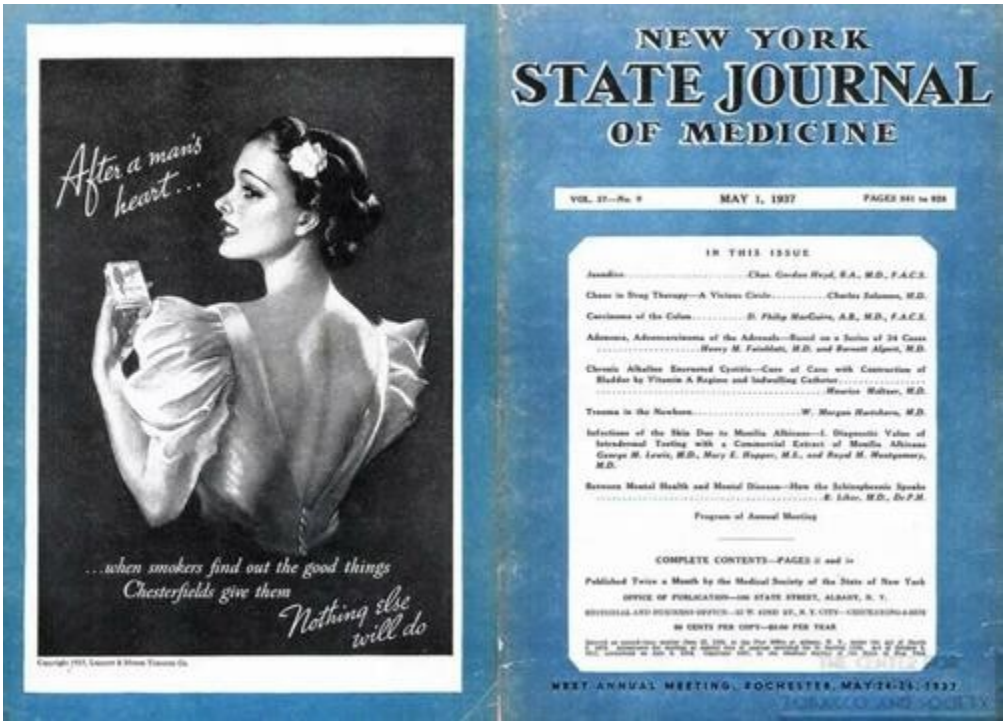
In 1998, the tobacco industry settled lawsuits filed by state governments with a massive Master Settlement Agreement. In exchange for perpetual annual payments and tight regulatory control, the tobacco industry could continue to sell its products protected from future lawsuits brought by participating states and jurisdictions.

But who really benefitted from the Tobacco Settlement? Only 2.6 percent of the money has been used for smoking prevention and cessation programs. Some states have used the tobacco money to fill budget gaps. South Carolina gave money to tobacco farmers affected by a drop in prices. Altria Group, a global tobacco company, is on the *US News & World Report* 10 best-performing stocks list. Altria, Phillip Morris, and British American Tobacco have all grown annual dividends consecutively since the settlement. According to Dr. Ed Anselm, "The most addictive thing about tobacco is money."

Tobacco use remains the number one preventable cause of death in the United States. In the first fifty years after the Surgeon General's 1964 report, more than 20 million Americans died of smoking. How many of these deaths would have been prevented if doctors had not been conflicted by financial entanglements with the tobacco industry?

Money blinds objectivity. When money drives decisions, controverting evidence is ignored, dissenting voices are ridiculed, open debate is suppressed, talking

points are distributed, conclusions are delayed, and people die from a product with liability protection.


After a man's heart...
...when smokers find out the good things Chesterfields give them
Nothing else will do
NEW YORK
STATE JOURNAL
OF MEDICINE
MAY 1, 1937
IN THIS ISSUE
COMPLETE CONTENTS—PAGES ii and iv
NEXT ANNUAL MEETING, ROCHESTER, MAY 24-25-1937

The *New York State Journal of Medicine* published a retrospective of tobacco's relationship to medicine in its December 1983 issue. Flipping through the pages is enlightening. Surrounding the articles describing the greed and politics of Big Tobacco are advertisements from medicine's new love—Big Pharma. Doctors have exchanged one bedfellow for another.

By endorsing irrelevant COVID-19 vaccines and poorly tested bivalent boosters, the AMA is pushing a product without concern for its potential negative health effects. Like before, the medical profession lags behind public opinion. According to recent Rasmussen Reports, 7 percent of vaccinated individuals report a major side effect, and nearly half of Americans believe that COVID-19 vaccines have caused unexplained deaths, about the same proportion who believed that smoking caused cancer in the 1960s while the AMA was studying the issue.

A conflicted profession cannot honestly evaluate data. Nowadays, the pharmaceutical business is a tremendous business. An organization benefitting from product sales cannot be trusted to evaluate that product.

If doctors could not recognize the health dangers of tobacco for most of the last century, why should we trust them when they say novel vaccines are safe and effective?

Yes, Bayer Promoted Heroin for Children -- Here Are The Ads That Prove It

It's not news that Bayer, the venerable German drug company, made its first fortunes in the late 1890s when it commercialized both aspirin and heroin as cough, cold and pain remedies. Many people have seen the sepia images of vintage Bayer's "Heroin" brand medicine bottles. But it's less widely known that Bayer promoted heroin for use in *children* suffering from coughs, colds and "irritation" as late as 1912, according to an anti-Bayer watchdog group. (See the ads below.)

That was years after reports first began to surface in 1899 that patients were developing a "tolerance" for Heroin, and that addicts in the U.S. were clamoring for more, according to this history of the drug.

The children's campaign ran in Spanish newspapers, according to the Coalition Against Bayer Dangers, a longtime company gadfly, which unearthed the forgotten images two days ago. One ad, urging the use of "Heroina" to

treat bronchitis in kids, shows two unattended children reaching for a bottle of the opiate across a kitchen table. Another shows a mom spoon feeding it to her sickly little girl. "La tos desaparece," the ad says -- "the cough disappears":

Heroin was restricted to prescription-only use in the U.S. in 1914 and eventually banned by the nascent FDA altogether in 1924, except under very strict medical conditions.

Sure, it's a blast from the past that says nothing about Bayer's corporate culture today. But their sudden re-appearance is a chilling reminder of what life was like in the early 20th Century when companies were permitted to sell anything to anyone, no matter how dangerous, regardless of the consequences.

Bayer's "Heroina," for "irritation" and "bronchitis"

No adult supervision required!

That kid really, really wants that bottle of Heroin

"En la tos fuerte" and "Jarabe Bayer de Heroina" translate roughly as "Bayer Heroin strong cough syrup."

My catarrh has disappeared!

Mi catarro ha desaparecido
gracias al JARABE BAYER de HEROINA, su medicamento tan agradable como eficaz contra la tos, irritación producida por la tos, dolores del pecho y demás molestias de los catarros de las vías respiratorias (angina, faringitis, bronquitis). Igualmente preserva de la congestión y afecciones de los órganos respiratorios, influenza, asma bronquial, etc.
El JARABE BAYER de HEROINA extingue la irritación producida por la tos, regulariza la respiración, calma los dolores, produce una acción reconfortante, vence al insomnio, mejora el estado general y abrevia la duración de la enfermedad.
El JARABE BAYER de HEROINA es completamente inofensivo y, por lo tanto, muy recomendable para las criaturas.
BAYER
Jarabe Bayer de Heroína

Don't try this at home, kids!

Heroin: It's not just for the children

The kids' campaign was part of a larger Spanish-language push by Bayer.

Hi honey, here's your smack!

After a hard day's work, a man is welcomed home by his wife with a spoonful of high-quality dope.

Don't know why there ain't no sun up in the sky ...

One of the few that actually was charges, exposed, and went to jail.

This ad touts "Heroina" for coughs and colds brought on by rainy weather.

Shkreli is the co-founder of the hedge funds Elea Capital, MSMB Capital Management, and MSMB Healthcare;[5] the co-founder and former chief executive officer (CEO) of the pharmaceutical firms Retrophin and Turing Pharmaceuticals (now Vyera Pharmaceuticals); and the former CEO of start-up software company Gödel Systems, which he founded in August 2016.[6]

In September 2015, Shkreli was widely criticized when Turing obtained the manufacturing license for the antiparasitic drug Daraprim and raised its price by 5,455% (from US$13.50 to $750 per pill). In 2017, Shkreli was charged and convicted in federal court on two counts of securities fraud and one count of conspiring to commit securities fraud, unrelated to the Daraprim controversy.[7] He was sentenced to seven years in federal prison and up to $7.4 million in fines.[8] In the civil case he was fined a further $64.6 million to be given to victims nationwide.

Prior to May 2022, Shkreli was held at the low-security federal prison in Allenwood, Pennsylvania, with an expected release date in September 2022.[9][10][11] On May 18, 2022, it was announced that Shkreli had been released early.[12][13]

Early life[edit]

Shkreli was born in Coney Island Hospital in the New York City borough of Brooklyn on March 17, 1983, to Albanian immigrant parents.[14][15] His parents were Roman Catholic, and he said his religion has been "a guiding post" for him, although he supposedly does not believe in God.[16] His parents immigrated to the United States and worked as janitors.[17] He, his two sisters, and his brother grew up in a working-class community in Sheepshead Bay, Brooklyn.[3][18][19] By most accounts, Shkreli was raised Catholic and attended Sunday school as a child.[20] Shkreli attended Hunter College High School. Sources differ on whether Shkreli graduated from Hunter[19] or whether he was expelled before his senior year and received the credits necessary for his high school diploma through City-As-School High School.[21][22] He ended up in a program that placed him in an internship at Wall Street hedge fund Cramer, Berkowitz and Company when he was 17.[18][23] Shkreli received a bachelor's degree in business administration from Baruch College in 2004.

Shkreli told *Vanity Fair* that he developed an interest in chemistry when a family member suffered from treatment-resistant depression.[15]

Daraprim price-hike controversy[edit]

On August 10, 2015, in accordance with Shkreli's business plan, Turing acquired Daraprim (pyrimethamine), a medication approved by the FDA in 1953,[59] from Impax Laboratories[60] for US$55 million.[61] The drug's most prominent use as of late 2015 was as an anti-malarial[62] and an antiparasitic, in conjunction with leucovorin and sulfadiazine,[63] to treat patients with both AIDS-related and AIDS-unrelated toxoplasmosis.[64]

The patent for Daraprim had expired, but no generic version was available.[65] The Turing–Impax deal included the condition that Impax remove the drug from regular wholesalers and pharmacies,[62] and so in June 2015, two months before the sale to Turing was announced, Impax switched to tightly controlled distribution.[23] In keeping with its strategy for pricing in the face of limited competition, Turing maintained the closed distribution.[57] The *New York Times* said that the deal "made sense only if Turing planned to raise the price of the drug substantially."[23]

On September 17, 2015, Dave Muoio of *Healio*, an in-depth clinical information website for health care specialists,[66] reported on a letter from the Infectious Diseases Society of America and the HIV Medicine Association to executives at Turing,[67] questioning a new pricing for Daraprim.[64] The price of a dose of the drug in the U.S. market increased by a factor of 56 (from US$13.50 to US$750 per pill) overnight.[68]

The price increase was initially criticized, jointly, by the Infectious Diseases Society of America and the HIV Medicine Association,[62][67] by the Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America,[69] and soon thereafter by presidential candidates Hillary Clinton,[70] Bernie Sanders,[71] and Donald Trump.[72]

A subsequent organized effort called on Turing to return pricing to pre-September levels and to address several matters relating to the needs of patients, an effort that garnered endorsements from more than 160 medical-specialty and patient-related organizations (as of December 2015, 164 organizations from 31 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico).[73][74]

In response to the controversy, the record label Collect Records publicly ended its business relationship with Shkreli, who had invested in the company.[75]

In a September 2015 interview with *Bloomberg Markets*, Shkreli said that despite the price increase, patient co-pays would actually be lower, that many patients would get the drug at no cost, that Turing had expanded its free drug program, and that it sold half of its drugs for one dollar.[76] He defended the price hike by saying, "If there was a company that was selling an Aston Martin at the price of a bicycle, and we buy that company and we ask to charge Toyota prices, I don't think that that should be a crime."[77][78]

A few days later, Shkreli announced that he planned to lower the price by an unspecified amount, "in response to the anger that was felt by people."[44] But in late November, Turing reversed course and said it would not lower the price after all.[79]

Following a request by Senator Bernie Sanders and Representative Elijah Cummings for details of Turing Pharmaceuticals' finances and price-setting practices in September 2015,[80][81] the company hired four lobbyists from Buchanan, Ingersoll & Rooney with backgrounds in health care legislation and pharmaceutical pricing.[82][83] In addition to lobbyists, Shkreli hired a crisis public relations firm to help explain the pricing decision.[84]

On October 22, 2015, Mark L. Baum, CEO of Imprimis Pharmaceuticals, announced that his company would provide a combination product containing pyrimethamine (the active ingredient in Daraprim) and leucovorin at "$1-a-pill" as a cheaper and more efficient alternative to Daraprim.[85] This product was intended to be used alongside sulfadiazine in the standard protocol to treat toxoplasmosis typically seen in AIDS patients.[64]

Baum said, "This is not the first time a sole supply generic drug – especially one that has been approved for use as long as Daraprim – has had its price increased suddenly and to a level that may make it unaffordable." He announced the availability of the compounded replacement for Daraprim as a part of a larger corporate program, "Imprimis Cares." to make "novel and customizable medicines available to physicians and patients at accessible prices." Imprimis began selling its compounded, orally taken formulations of pyrimethamine and leucovorin at US$99 for a 100 count bottle, essentially a dollar a dose.[85]

On November 23, 2015, Turing announced that the company would not reduce the list price of Daraprim, but said it planned instead to negotiate volume discounts of up to 50% for hospitals.[86] Turing issued a statement that it was not as important to cut the list price as to reduce the cost to hospitals, where most patients get their initial treatment. The company pledged that no patient needing Daraprim would ever be denied access.[79]

Infectious disease specialists and patient advocates, including Tim Horn of the Treatment Action Group and Carlos del Rio of the HIV Medicine Association, said Turing's actions were insufficient, given that patients initially treated for days at a hospital typically have to continue the treatment for weeks or months after leaving.[87]

Not even a seven-year sentence for securities fraud can keep **Martin Shkreli** from allegedly engaging in the machinations that earned him the nickname “Pharma Bro.”

“The plaintiffs have shown that Shkreli has used a prison phone to discuss highly relevant company business and that he knew in doing so that those communications should have been but would not be preserved,” the 11-page ruling states. “Shkreli’s use of the prison phone to discuss business development constitutes intentional spoliation and warrants sanctions.”

https://lawandcrime.com/high-profile/pharma-bro-martin-shkreli-gets-a-slap-on-the-wrist-for-using-contraband-phone-to-discuss-pharma-business-behind-bars/

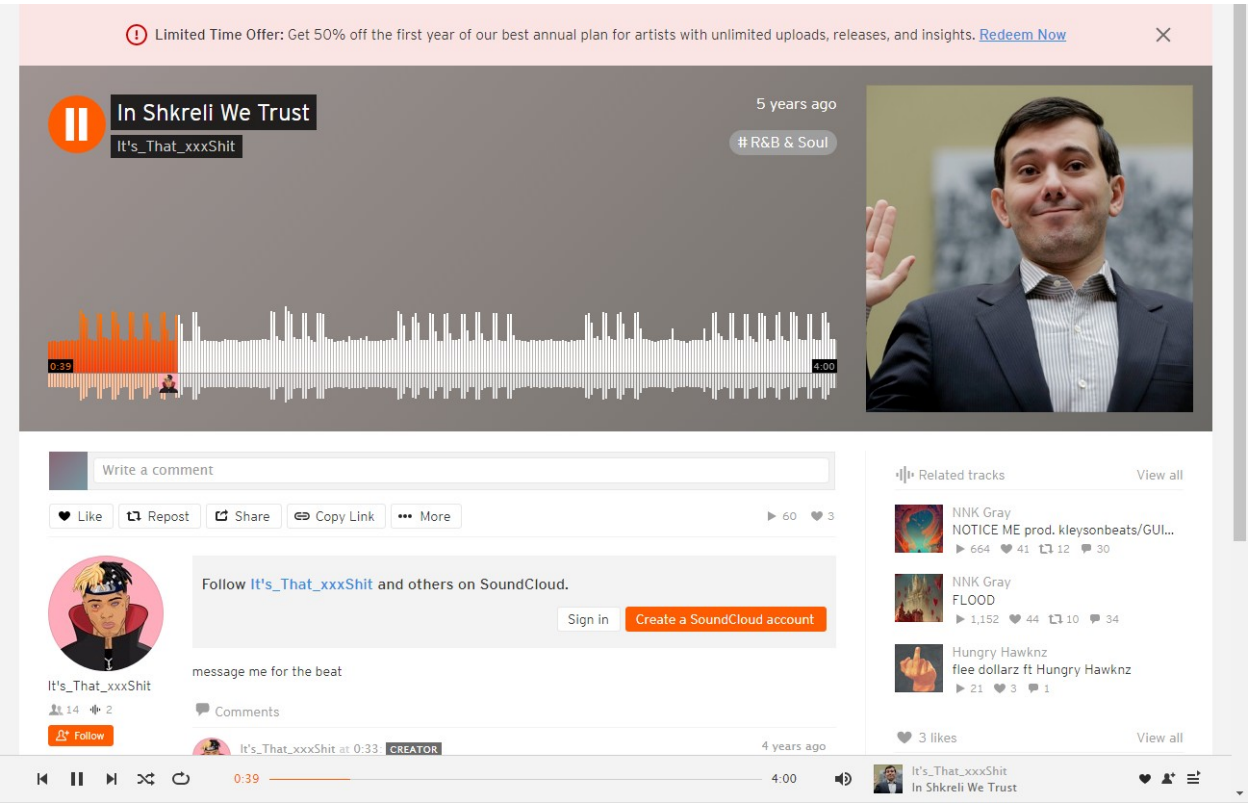
And apparently word had it that he was using a wsb account intermittently throughout his entire sentence. I remember seeing conversations about it back in 2019. You could only imagine the amount of peple iwlling to pay anything just t speak to him. The guy even had his own youtube channel where he would go on for hours sometimes, completely live..

https://www.reddit.com/r/wallstreetbets/comments/etj48u/martin_shkreli_jailhouse_phone_call/

journal: feb22 The worst part about this story isn’t so much the nature of the crime, but that it seemed like he was being used as a scapegoat in an industry already rife with whitecollar crime.

The truth is, people like skereli have been sucking money out of the medical research industry through complex financial fraud for decades, and few have been held accountable.

Not defending the guy. He was the one that chose to put himself in the spotlight, but it's just the truth. Recent examples, from Biogen, to Cassava Science, only scratch the surface of a much larger problem. He actually talked about this a lot if you watch some of his interviews and podcasts.



https://soundcloud.com/bsr_edits/in-shkreli-we-trust

Stats, health, government: feb18 **australia: number of Lyrica prescriptions filled in the country went**

from 36,000 in 2012 to 4,000,000 in 2018, an increase of over 10,000%

Lyrica “Gets Its Claws Into Your Soul”

Lyrica, a drug manufactured by Pfizer, was initially developed to treat epilepsy. Since that time, it’s been prescribed off-label to treat pain and anxiety — often with disastrous results.

High-profile cases of the drug’s devastating effects have emerged in Australia, where use of the drug has skyrocketed of late; the number of Lyrica prescriptions filled in the country went from 36,000 in 2012 to 4,000,000 in 2018, an increase of over 10,000%.

A correspondingly high human toll is being paid as the drug predominates; Christalla Andreadis, a 52-year-old prescribed Lyrica after a car accident, declared the drug “gets its claws into your soul” while describing the devastating and addictive nature of Lyrica (the generic name for which is Pregabalin).

In addition to suicidal thoughts, use of Lyrica has been associated with respiratory depression; slowed breathing can be dangerous on its own, and the chance of fatality only increases when the user is elderly, has a pre-existing lung condition, or uses Opioids in combination with Lyrica.

Online Addiction Counseling

BetterHelp - Professional Therapy, 100% Online

Get professional help from an addiction and mental health counselor from BetterHelp via phone, video, or live-chat.
Take the Quiz. Get Matched. Begin Therapy.

GET STARTED

Paid Advertising. We may receive advertising fees if you follow links to the BetterHelp site.

Other side effects have been reported; one mother described her daughter's descent into Lyrica addiction, characterizing her as a once effervescent young woman who began to lose both her spark and control of her behavior — often falling asleep while standing up and acting in other erratic ways — before tragically dying of an overdose in 2020.

And Lyrica isn't just creating problems in Australia. Gabapentinoids (a class of drugs of which Lyrica is a member) are incredibly common in the US; Lyrica itself cost Medicare $2.1 billion in 2016, as more than 850,000 Medicare beneficiaries were prescribed the drug in that year alone.

When asked by reporters about the dangers of Lyrica, manufacturer Pfizer punted; the pharmaceutical giant denied ownership of the drug — despite their branding being plainly visible on Lyrica's packaging — and passed the buck to Viatris, a company Pfizer created in 2020.

There's now a growing curiosity about what exactly Pfizer knew about the destructive and addictive potential of Lyrica while they were spending millions to market the drug to doctors and to an unsuspecting public; perhaps unsurprisingly, it's not the first time Pfizer has found themselves in hot water because of Lyrica.

Pfizer's Lied About Lyrica Before

The US Department of Justice fined Pfizer $2.3 billion for breaking the law in how it promoted 4 of its drugs, including Lyrica, in 2009. At the time, the settlement was the largest health care fraud payout in history. To date, it's the second largest.

Pfizer faced allegations of paying kickbacks to doctors for prescribing their drugs, making false claims about Pfizer drugs, and promoting off-label use of drugs like Lyrica; it's illegal for drug companies like Pfizer to promote use of their drugs for reasons not approved by the FDA.

A similarly aggressive and unscrupulous marketing strategy was used in Australia; Pfizer pumped millions into "educational" events for doctors (where drug companies often get to bend the laws around courting medical professionals to their breaking point, shamelessly "wining and dining" care providers in an attempt to get their proprietary medications into as many prescription pads as possible).

Some elected officials have tried to force Pfizer to answer for their behavior when it comes to Lyrica; Senator Ron Wyden, the current chair and then-ranking member of the Senate Finance Committee, wrote then-Pfizer CEO Ian Read in 2018 to ask Read why Pfizer had hiked the price of Lyrica multiple times, sometimes by as much as 145%, to the detriment of taxpayers who are prescribed the medication.

Read, for his part, had previously insisted that companies like Pfizer don't make too much money. Pfizer had well over $41 billion in revenue last year and is expecting $26 billion just from COVID-19 vaccine sales alone in 2021.

They Don't Take It Like Medicine

If the above reports aren't bad enough, Buzzfeed News reported in 2017 that Lyrica was "the drug of choice to treat rampant depression, anxiety, and PTSD" in a Greek refugee camp. That Lyrica was (and possibly still is) distributed so widely to refugees may help explain the enormously high rate of suicidal

ideation among the demographic; The Washington Post reported the results of a survey that found 41% of a certain subset of refugees have contemplated suicide, and suicidal thoughts are a possible side effect of Lyrica. Other factors most certainly contribute to this troubling statistic — it’s a near certainty that Lyrica use isn’t helping, however.

One observer of Lyrica use within the refugee camp told a reporter that “Life here is hard. Some people take the pill,” going on to say that refugees “do not take [Lyrica] as medicine … they take it like drugs.”

Many people across the world, both Americans and Australians, are doing the same. Only time will tell if public outcry over the actions of companies like Pfizer and the harmful overprescription of drugs like Lyrica will be enough to motivate the elected officials who have failed to rein in drug companies, or the drug companies themselves, who often flood Congress and candidates with donations, to change their ways.

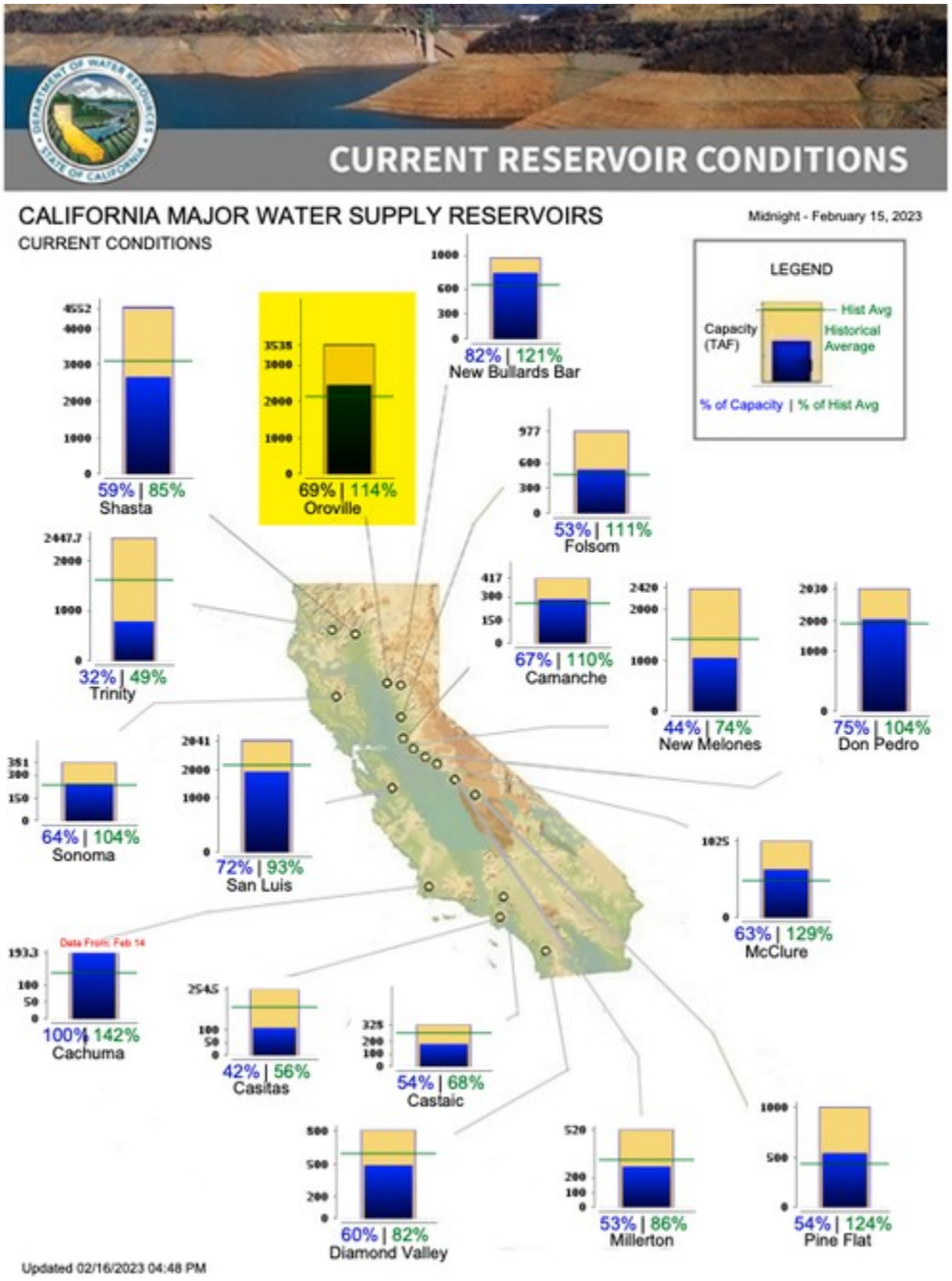
War, sanctions, government, planet: feb18 **australia: number of Lyrica prescriptions filled in the country went from 36,000 in 2012 to 4,000,000 in 2018, an increase of over 10,000%**

'Nature Heals Itself': Lake Oroville's Epic Rise After Conveyor Belt Of Atmospheric Rivers

Los Angeles Times photographers have published stunning before and after photos of Lake Oroville, one of California's largest reservoirs, on the State Water Project, to only reveal nature has healed itself -- not humans or insane 'green' taxes pushed by progressive Democrats who virtue signal about saving the planet.

As of Thursday, the California Department of Water Resources' data showed the current water level at Lake Oroville was 69% of its capacity on Wednesday — up

from 28% just two months ago. The State Water Project is a network of reservoirs, canals, and dams that supplies water to 27 million people.



Last summer, Lake Oroville's water levels fell dangerously low (read: here & here). But a conveyor belt of atmospheric rivers dumped trillions of gallons of rain on the state early this year that helped fill up the once drought-stricken reservoir.

Photo Credits: Before Brian van der Brug / Los Angeles Times **After** Brian van der Brug / Los Angeles Times

Photo Credits: Before Brian van der Brug / Los Angeles Times **After** Brian van der Brug / Los Angeles Times

And there's more good news: deep snowpack this year in California, the Great Basin, and the Colorado River Basin will provide even more water in the months ahead to alleviate severe drought conditions.

10 hours ago

remove
link

It has been that way for 4000 million plus years.

Delusional is believing that 200 years of human moderate activity will make any difference

play_arrow92play_arrow6

ZIRPdiggler
10 hours ago

remove
link

You coulda just said "4 billion"

play_arrow31play_arrow

WEFparasites
9 hours ago

remove
link

No Zee is more right. Most people are incapable of understanding how much a billion, much less a million of something really is.

play_arrow26play_arrow2

bunsw7
8 hours ago

remove
link

1/4000th of a Gazillion.

play_arrow17play_arrow

Regicidal Tendencies
9 hours ago

remove
link

Ya, but 4000 million plus is moarer.

play_arrow24play_arrow

MadBrewer
8 hours ago
(Edited)

remove
link

Up voted for moarer is betterer.

Cheers

play_arrow16play_arrow2

Regicidal Tendencies
7 hours ago

remove
link

Tanx!

play_arrow6play_arrow1

Ura Bonehead
PREMIUM
8 hours ago
(Edited)

remove
link

"4 billion" is nothing to a Washington climate elite. That's a 10 foot high private wall... at EACH of your 5 mansions, an armed security detail, a fleet of private jets, and a month for the whole entourage at the Ritz in Davos.

play_arrow13play_arrow

ZeeMasterOfPuppets
6 hours ago

remove
link

In my language a billion is a million of millions. But, point Taken!

play_arrow2play_arrow

EndeavorLewis
2 hours ago

remove
link

Your language may be the only thing unaffected by inflation - "million of millions", i.e., 10e6*10e6 = 10e12, or trillions in our language. But like I implied, our language has been affected by inflation.

play_arrowplay_arrow

G7Hedge
PRO
1 hour ago

remove
link

lol

play_arrowplay_arrow

reddy kilowatt
9 hours ago

remove
link

CO2: *it's what plants crave*

play_arrow37play_arrow

Z Free
9 hours ago

remove
link

Bingo! ESG policies only make problems

play_arrow8play_arrow1

WEFparasites
9 hours ago

remove
link

Without CO2, all plant life on Earth would be dead.

Suck on that climatards.

play_arrow16play_arrow

krda
9 hours ago

remove
link

Without the Industrial Revolution, all life on Earth would have died out in a couple of million years. CO2 levels have been declining for a couple of

hundred million years and that's the point where they would have fallen low enough for plant life to die. And when plant life does, so does animal life.

Environmentalism is literally a death cult.

play_arrow12play_arrow1

Z Free
8 hours ago

remove
link

Saturn Death Cult

play_arrow5play_arrow1

brunski60
9 hours ago

remove
link

Human activity is likely linked to a more hospitable climate after the last ice age.

play_arrow5play_arrow

krda
9 hours ago
(Edited)

remove
link

The best evidence for human effects on the climate is that New York isn't buried under a mile of ice right now. We're well overdue for a new Ice Age and something has prevented it so far.

The Environmentals are literally demanding that we cause another Ice Age which will bury much of the environment under massive glaciers and kill off masses of animal species.

play_arrow6play_arrow2

Maxamillia
7 hours ago

remove
link

It's Weather Warfare. Your Avatar Tells Us all we need 2 know about U.

NEXT PLEASE...

play_arrowplay_arrow2

Westsidekilla
7 hours ago

remove
link

What a crisis

play_arrow1play_arrow

SteinBerg
5 hours ago

remove
link

why not 4000 billion ?

play_arrow1play_arrow

Show More Replies

NeverDemRino
10 hours ago

remove
link

Don't worry, the CA WEF Rats will open the spillways and drain them so that they can return to claiming Global Warming is killing us all.

play_arrow41play_arrow

Zork
10 hours ago

remove
link

They will need to flood the delta so we don't make some lousy mosquito extinct.

play_arrow12play_arrow

FurnitureFireSale

9 hours ago

remove
link

Im kind of hoping we will have a levee blowout like in 97 or whenever the last El Nino was... It would be interesting.

play_arrow4play_arrow

FurnitureFireSale
9 hours ago
(Edited)

remove
link

I was going to say this. The enviros will make the bureaucrats waste the water.

I just realized, if somone would offer me a can of Delta Smelt I would totally buy it. I'm a big time prepper...

play_arrow11play_arrow

MadBrewer
9 hours ago

remove
link

I catch them to use for bait.

Cheers

play_arrow5play_arrow1

debt_slave_1029384756
9 hours ago

remove
link

FEEMA is busy getting funds to Commiefornia to build uninterrupted, direct spillways from the mountains to the Pacific.

Also that 'splains why there's no money for OH/PA.

□□□□ □□□□□

□□

and you can shove your vaccine mandates up your ASS

play_arrow10play_arrow

corndog
2 hours ago

remove
link

Since when is there not enough money for anything? (reading When Money Dies. I recommend it)

play_arrow1play_arrow

Silly Wabbit
10 hours ago

remove
link

Knowing California, they will probably open the flood gates and let all the water flow to the Pacific.

play_arrow31play_arrow

Arthor Bearing
54 minutes ago

remove
link

One lake has increased its water level because it happens to sit under this atmospheric conveyor. What about the entire rest of the American southwest? How about Great Salt Lake? ******* monkeys, so easy to manipulate.

play_arrowplay_arrow

Christianman
10 hours ago

remove
link

Intelligent design by an intelligent Creator, Jesus Christ!

play_arrow29play_arrow4

Race Car to Hell
9 hours ago

remove
link

Galaxies best terrarium, won lots of prizes at the fair.

play_arrow5play_arrow1

AZ Man
10 hours ago
(Edited)

remove
link

Same thing happened 3 years ago. As a matter of fact, the spillway was overflowing and was compromised and had to be repaired.

Then they released all of that water for no good reason other than so that they can create a crisis that they must "fix" through draconian legislation.

They want to control all agriculture like the good communists they are.

play_arrow28play_arrow

2pac
PREMIUM
9 hours ago

remove
link

CA rainfall does not have a normal distribution.

Gets below "average" 9/10 years then el nino and you get above average 1/10 years.

Makes for great fear-mongering as long as your audience dosn't understand math.

play_arrow23play_arrow

strych10
9 hours ago
(Edited)

remove
link

But any sample you pick randomly where n=30+ will have a standard distribution.

This is proof that math is racist. Because reasons. If you disagree, you're a bigot.

play_arrow5play_arrow

2pac
PREMIUM
9 hours ago

remove
link

The distribution of the sample mean will have a normal distirbution - but not the underlying distrbution.

play_arrow1play_arrow

strych10
9 hours ago

remove
link

Ah, yes. Thanks for the correction.

The Central Limit Theorem is one of those things I was assured I'd use all the time and basically haven't touched, or even really thought about, since Stats.

play_arrowplay_arrow

Boomhauer
4 hours ago
(Edited)

remove
link

We ate at El Nino's 8-10 beers ago.

The wet bar was to die for.

play_arrow1play_arrow

deep-state-retired
10 hours ago

remove
link

Funny how the Earth mocks environmental alarmists.

play_arrow22play_arrow

Golden Showers
9 hours ago

remove
link

God mocks people with egos.

Because God has a sense of humor. And he did your mom.

play_arrow1play_arrow5

Herbert C. Noodleman
10 hours ago

remove
link

Libs gotta get busy letting that water out back to the ocean or they can't keep raising the price of water and preventing farming.

play_arrow18play_arrow

SafeAndEffective
10 hours ago

remove
link

It would be fun to have someone who lived 5000 years tell us all how ridiculous we all are. But they would probably get on Facebook and become a complete tard.

play_arrow16play_arrow1

Sheep in Wolf's Clothing
10 hours ago

remove
link

Facebook brain rot is a thing.

play_arrow8play_arrow

Dr. Hosé Tortilla

9 hours ago
(Edited)

remove
link

x

play_arrowplay_arrow7

Dr. Hosé Tortilla
9 hours ago

remove
link

I'm enlightened, so when I say you are all ridiculous, cringe and pathetic what I get are downvotes and hateful replies

play_arrow1play_arrow14

SafeAndEffective
9 hours ago
(Edited)

remove
link

I'll give you a participation trophy if you wish. In the form of a downvote. Well done for showing up.

play_arrow5play_arrow

Vaccine, censorship, government: feb18 US Says Government, Not Moderna, Should Face COVID-19 Vaccine Lawsuit

Stats, government: feb18 Oakland Bicyclists Targeted By 'Dooring' Attacks Leave Two Hospitalized

US Says Government, Not Moderna, Should Face COVID-19 Vaccine Lawsuit

BY TYLER DURDEN
SATURDAY, FEB 18, 2023 - 12:00 AM

Authored by Zachary Stieber via The Epoch Times (emphasis ours),

The U.S. government is asserting that it, not Moderna, should face a lawsuit **that alleges the company committed patent infringement with its COVID-19 vaccine.**

The Moderna headquarters in Cambridge, Mass., on Nov. 30, 2020. (Maddie Meyer/Getty Images)

The government said the court should allow it to "relieve Moderna of any liability for patent infringement resulting in performance of the '-0100 contract and to transfer to the United States any liability for the manufacture or use of the inventions claimed in the patents-in-suit resulting from the authorized and consented acts."

Liability did not refer to an admission of patent infringement, the filing said, but "having legal responsibility for any acts that may constitute the alleged infringement."

Arbutus Biopharma and Genevant Sciences sued Moderna in 2022 in federal court in Delaware, alleging Moderna in its vaccine used "breakthrough technology" that Arbutus had already created and patented.

Moderna later filed for dismissal, arguing that under federal law, any infringement claims relating to inventions being used "by or for the government" and with "**the authorization and consent of the government" must be handled in the Court of Federal Claims.**

The first prong was satisfied in the 2020 contract between Moderna and the U.S. Army—the '-0100 contract—which stated in part that the agreement was "for the United States government … and the U.S. population," Moderna said. The second prong, the company said, was met by the insertion of a regulation stating the government "authorizes and consents to all use and manufacture, in performing this contract or any subcontract at any tier, of any invention described in and covered by a United States patent."

In his ruling rejecting Moderna's attempt to dismiss the case, U.S. District Judge Mitchell Goldberg said the allegations against Moderna indicated the development and sale of the vaccines was primarily for the benefit of the vaccine's recipients. The U.S. government was an incidental beneficiary, he said. Under legal precedent, the law, 1498, does not cover inventions with an incidental benefit.

"**While discovery may reveal that all, some, or none of the alleged infringing activity was 'for the Government,' the limited record appropriate for consideration at this stage does not allow me to make any such determination**," Goldberg, a George W. Bush appointee, said. The judge also declined to find that Moderna met the standard for having the government's authorization and consent, in part because the government had not filed any papers in support of the company.

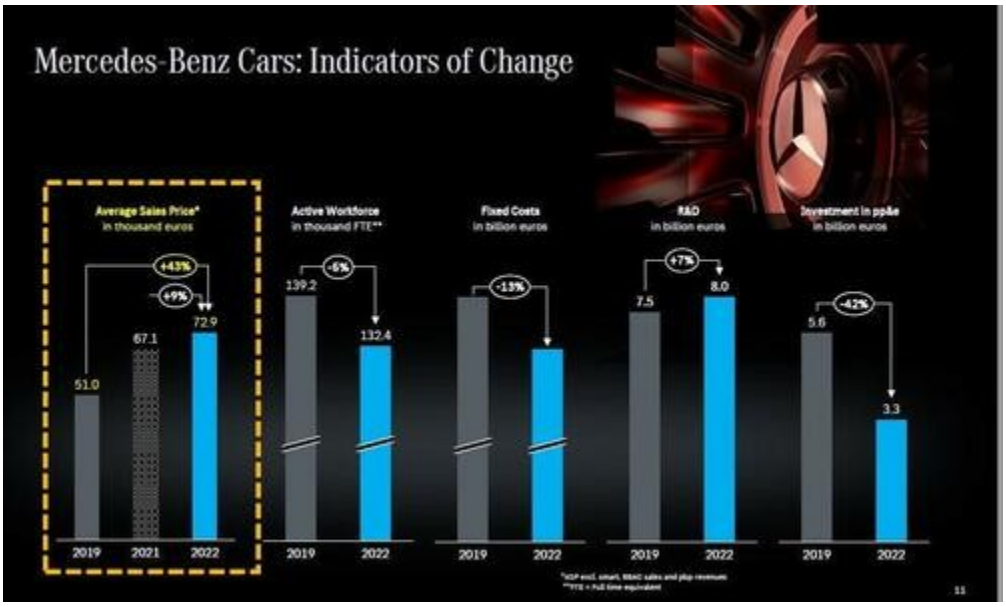
In the new statement of interest, government lawyers made clear they are backing Moderna.

Stats, markets, inflation: feb18 The average monthly payment for a new car has soared to a record $777, nearly doubling from late 2019

Mercedes-Benz Hikes Vehicle Prices By 43% As Only Rich Can Afford

Mercedes-Benz might be returning to the days when corporate executives and only the affluent could afford to roll down the street in German luxury.

That's because a new Benz reached the average price of €72,900 ($76,590) in 2022, a 43% increase over 2019, Bloomberg Opinion Chris Bryant pointed out in a tweet.



"That chimes with the carmaker's push even further upmarket by focusing on top-end models like the S-Class sedan to bolster profits. The company has been working through pent-up demand after chip shortages curbed production last year," Bloomberg said.

The German automaker appears to be taking a different path versus the last decade of providing entry-level models for the average person.

Bloomberg also pointed out:

Mercedes isn't alone. Around the world, manufacturers are reaping the benefits of selling fewer but more expensive cars. In the US, average monthly payments for a new car nearly doubled from late 2019. And as battery-powered vehicles tend to cost more than the average combustion-engine car, the shift to EVs may make the affordability crisis even worse.

Earlier this week, we said shiny new vehicles are [out of reach for many Americans](#).

New Cars Are Only for the Rich Now as Automakers Rake In Profits
David Welch and Keith Naughton, Bloomberg News

(Bloomberg) -- A shiny new car in the driveway has been an emblem of middle-class prosperity for generations. But for the typical American family, it’s now a distant dream.

The average monthly payment for a new car has soared to a record $777, nearly doubling from late 2019, according to Kelley Blue Book owner Cox Automotive. That’s almost a sixth of the median after-tax income for US households. Even used models have climbed to $544 a month on average.

The sticker shock extends well beyond the US, where inflation is a thorny a political issue for President Joe Biden as the 2024 election looms. In Europe, prices are flirting with records. Used-car prices soared in Japan last year, and in China, a rapid push to electric vehicles means consumers will have to pay more in some cities.

At the root of the problem is automakers' new mantra: Keep inventory lean and price tags fat. Three years after the pandemic triggered a global shortage of semiconductor chips and crippled car manufacturing, Ford Motor Co., General Motors Co. and their overseas rivals are notching big profits. Even as the chip crunch shows signs of easing, they're pledging to keep production in check.

And because electric vehicles cost about 25% more than the average car, the shift to plug-ins is about to make the affordability crisis even worse. Add soaring interest rates to the mix, and new cars — like home ownership and a college education — are fast becoming the domain of the rich.

"The idea of a new car in every American's driveway is not the world we live in," said Charlie Chesbrough, a senior economist at Cox.

Sky-High Payments

For a decade, the average new-car payment in the US bumped along at roughly $400 a month. That's about as much as the typical American household can shell out and still meet other major expenses, said Jonathan Smoke, chief economist at Cox. But it crossed that mark in November 2019 and has been soaring ever since.

The average price for a new vehicle in the US has jumped to almost $50,000, up 30% since 2019, according to JPMorgan. Though prices have retreated somewhat in recent weeks as production recovers, the pullback isn't enough for most consumers to comfortably buy a new car. The average price of a used car, meanwhile, now stands at about $27,000, Cox data show.

Read more: Americans fall behind on car payments at a higher rate than 2009
Manufacturers are reaping the benefits of selling fewer but more expensive cars. Last year, automakers sold about 13 million vehicles in the US, down 8% from 2021 and the lowest in a decade. But Ford's gross profit rose 4.4% in 2022 from a year earlier, while GM's adjusted earnings grew by about $200 million to reach $14.5 billion. Margins for some manufacturers are expected to narrow this year amid global economic weakness.

In Europe, meanwhile, new-car prices are at all-time highs and still climbing, according to data from ING Research. Vehicle shortages drove used-car prices up in Japan through most of last year. China's economic slump has kept prices at bay, but major cities are making it difficult to register internal-combustion vehicles amid a push toward EVs, which tend to be more expensive.

Keeping Inventories Low

It's a sea change from the business model that defined car manufacturing for decades: Run plants at full tilt and then use deep discounts to move the metal. In the US, automakers customarily carried 60 to 100 days of inventory. These days, manufacturers are targeting about half that much to lower overheads and keep prices high.

"We'll never go back to the inventory levels that we were at in the past," GM Chief Executive Officer Mary Barra told investors last year.

Her rival, Ford CEO Jim Farley, has said he doesn't want to pay for billions of dollars in inventory or offer discounts and other incentives to offload it. Toyota Motor Corp. and Nissan Motor Co. have vowed to attempt the same strategy.

"You're not going to see most manufacturers go back to where it was three or four years ago," Judy Wheeler, vice president of US vehicle sales for Nissan, said in an interview. "We'll keep that supply and demand in a level state."

There are some signs, though, that consumer pain will ease slightly as supply-chain snarls abate. Ford Chief Financial Officer John Lawler said this month that he expects new-car prices to fall 5% in 2023 as automakers dial up the discounts, while Nissan's Wheeler predicted prices will drop toward "a more normal level." Tesla Inc. and Ford slashed prices on electric vehicles.

Short-Lived Relief

Dealers are skeptical that automakers will keep inventories in check, said Rhett Ricart, whose Columbus, Ohio-based Ricart Automotive Group is a major dealer of Ford, Nissan and Chevrolet models.

"They all talk about 30 to 45 days' supply of cars. They won't do it," Ricart said in an interview. "These chips aren't a big issue any more. Car wars is back."

But any recovery in supply is likely to happen in fits and starts. Barra and Jack Hollis, executive vice president of sales for Toyota Motor North America, see the industry getting enough chips to sell 15 million vehicles in the US this year, which is about 12% below where sales were three years ago. Hollis said there could be more than 4 million vehicles' worth of pent-up demand from the chip shortage, keeping prices from falling fast.

"We will have another year with a supply-constrained sales number," Hollis said. "Prices keep rising. It's clear that demand is still outstripping supply."

For used cars, Cox's Smoke sees prices falling only 4% this year, in part because automakers have not been leasing as much. That translates to fewer recent-model cars coming back to market.

Sercy Sanders has been riding the bus in Pittsburgh ever since the transmission blew on his 2006 Acura TL in early January. When the cost of repairing it was more than the car was worth, Sanders got pre-approved for a loan from his credit union and set out to find a 2016 Honda Accord for under $17,000. But he found nothing for less than $19,000 and now is looking at models that are over a decade old.

"That's just the way it may have to be if I want to stay in my price range and not have too high a monthly car bill," said Sanders, 48, a customer service representative and single dad of two high schoolers. "It's very frustrating. I wanted a newer vehicle that I felt would be more reliable. With an older used car, you just never know what you're going to get."

And for those looking for a new car at a budget price, the options are limited. Domestic automakers stopped building compact cars in the US because they couldn’t make money on them.

The dearth of cheaper models means more new cars are being snapped up by affluent consumers. Nearly 30% of the market is from households with annual income of more than $150,000, up from 22% in 2016, said Mark Wakefield, managing director at consulting firm AlixPartners.

“You’ve seen a move to more wealthy people buying cars,” Wakefield said. “The bottom part of the market sort of fell out.”

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War, Erdogan, middle east: feb17 US Troops Kill 'ISIS Official' Involved in Planning Prison Breaks in Syria

Islam, stats ,censorship: feb17 TikTokers Jailed as Iraq Targets 'Decadent Content'

Dancing to Iraqi pop made TikTok personality Om Fahad a hit among tens of thousands of followers, but now she is in prison, caught up in a state campaign targeting "decadent content".

The young Iraqi woman using that pseudonym was sentenced early this month to half a year behind bars for the light-hearted video clips that show her in tight-fitting clothes.

A new government campaign aims to cleanse social media platforms of content that breaches Iraqi "mores and traditions", the interior ministry announced in January.

https://www.dailymail.co.uk/wires/afp/article-11757053/TikTokers-jailed-Iraq-targets-decadent-content.html

War, Erdogan: feb17 NATO Chief Urges Turkey to Let Nordic Pair Join Quickly

ANKARA (AP) — NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg on Thursday urged Turkey to ratify the applications of Finland and Sweden to join the military organization, repeating his claim that the Nordic neighbors have done enough to satisfy Ankara's demands that they crack down on extremism.

At a news conference in Ankara standing alongside Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu, Stoltenberg also condemned the burning of the Muslim holy book, the Quran, at a protest in Sweden but he said that this is not illegal in Europe.

Alarmed by Russia's invasion of Ukraine a year ago, Finland and neighboring Sweden abandoned decades of nonalignment and applied to join the alliance. All 30 NATO members approved their applications, and 28 have ratified their accession. Only Turkey and Hungary have failed to do so.

Stoltenberg and most allies have long said that both the Nordic neighbors should join at the same time, but in recent days NATO's top civilian official has soften his stance amid Turkey's reluctance to ratify Sweden's accession.

"My position is that both can be ratified now. But the main issue is not whether they are ratified together, the main issue is that Finland and Sweden are ratified as soon as possible," he told reporters in Ankara.

TURKEY ACCUSES THE GOVERNMENT IN STOCKHOLM OF BEING TOO SOFT ON GROUPS IT DEEMS TO BE TERROR ORGANIZATIONS OR EXISTENTIAL THREATS, INCLUDING KURDISH GROUPS. EARLIER THIS MONTH, CAVUSOGLU SAID ANKARA HAS FEWER PROBLEMS WITH FINLAND JOINING.

"IT WOULD NOT BE A REALISTIC APPROACH TO SAY THAT SWEDEN HAS FULLY FULFILLED ITS OBLIGATIONS," CAVUSOGLU SAID THURSDAY. "AT THE MOMENT, WE HAVE NOT YET SEEN THE CONCRETE STEPS WE WANT."

WITH CRACKING DOWN ON EXTREMISM A LIKELY VOTE-WINNER IN ELECTIONS SCHEDULED IN TURKEY FOR MAY — ALTHOUGH THE POLLS MIGHT BE DELAYED DUE TO THE DEVASTATING EARTHQUAKE THAT ROCKED TURKEY AND SYRIA LAST WEEK, KILLING ALMOST 40,000 PEOPLE — THE RHETORIC FROM ANKARA HAS BECOME INCREASINGLY HEATED.

IN RECENT WEEKS, TURKISH PRESIDENT RECEP TAYYIP ERDOGAN HAS EXPRESSED ANGER AT A SERIES OF SEPARATE DEMONSTRATIONS IN STOCKHOLM. IN ONE CASE A SOLITARY

ANTI-ISLAM ACTIVIST BURNED THE QURAN OUTSIDE THE TURKISH EMBASSY, WHILE IN AN UNCONNECTED PROTEST AN EFFIGY OF ERDOGAN WAS HANGED.

“I understand and I share the pain because I personally regard the burning of the holy book as a disgraceful act,” Stoltenberg said, but he also praised Sweden for being “able to prevent other (protests) with the burning of the Quran.”

“Not all acts which are disgraceful or immoral or provocative are illegal, but it is important to have a strong position and that is what we have seen daily from the Swedish government,” the former Norwegian prime minister said.

Hungary has not publicly raised any substantial objections to either country joining NATO, but it has chosen to push back its ratification date for their applications three times.

Markets, government, stats: feb17 Lebanon Teeters on the Edge as Currency Loses Nearly 100 Percent of Its Value

Banks Attacked in Beirut as Lira Plummets to New Lows

War, Africa: feb17 UPDF recalls 4,000 reservists, ahead of their deployment in the SOMALIA

The Uganda People’s Defence Forces (UPDF) has called up reservists under the age of 55 for training ahead of their deployment in the Somalia Peacekeeping Mission, Defence Spokesperson Felix Kulayigye, said in a statement yesterday.

Reservists have been directed to report to centres in different parts of the country for the short mobilisation exercise that will end on February 18. The deputy Defence spokesperson,

Col Deo Akiiki, told this publication that the reservists will be deployed in “two battle groups”.

“We hereby inform the public that the UPDF – Reserve Force will conduct a call-up exercise of UPDF Veterans for a peacekeeping mission. The exercise is expected to run from 15 February to 18 February 2023 and will be conducted in various centres all over the country, by different teams from the UPDF and will be supported by RDCs and DISOs of the area where that particular centre is located,” Brig Kulayigye said in a statement.

The UPDF veterans must have their discharge certificate and a national identity card in order to be qualified for the mission. They must be 55 years of age or younger, in good health, and physically fit.

Once recruited, Col Akiiki clarified, the able-bodied reservists or veterans will form part of Uganda Battle Groups XXXIX and XI.

At the end of the exercise on February 18, successful veterans will be transported to the Peace Support Training Centre, PSO-Singo, Nakaseke District.
Asked whether the capacity of the active force is stretched that the military is turning to veterans for the key peace keeping mission, Col Akiiki said the measure is part of the military’s efforts to engage its veterans and will be implemented within the law.

Stats, Africa, government: feb17 Welcome to Africa:" Senegal Police Smash Car, Forcibly Remove Opposition Leader"

Senegal police smash car, forcibly remove opposition leader

By BABACAR DIONEyesterday

DAKAR, Senegal (AP) — Police in Senegal smashed the window of a car in which a top opposition leader was sitting and forced him from the vehicle Thursday, marking the latest unrest surrounding a likely challenger to the ruling party in elections next year.

Videos recorded by his driver and posted on social media by his supporters showed police physically removing Ousmane Sonko from the back seat of his car after he appeared in a Dakar court.

Authorities later escorted the 46-year-old politician to his residence, according to Senegalese media. Sonko's supporters saw the incident as the latest attempt to cut short his political career, including his likely presidential candidacy in 2024.

Sonko finished third in Senegal's 2019 presidential election and has called on President Macky Sall to say publicly that he won't seek a third term.

The opposition leader was in court as part of a civil lawsuit against him by Senegal's tourism minister for defamation and public insults. The case stems from accusations that Sonko made against the minister during a news conference late last year. A judge on Thursday postponed the trial until next month.

Stats, Africa, war: feb17 At least 6 million Nigerians affected by the extremist insurgency in northeastern Nigeria need $1.3 billion in aid this year, according to the U.N. office in Nigeria.

War, government: eb17 america seems to be having trouble maintaining discipline with

national guard troops served with mission of defended southern border

https://www.militarytimes.com/news/your-army/2023/02/16/a-year-on-pentagons-border-mission-investigation-still-missing/

Stats, censorship, government: feb17 Blinkin takes issue with indonesia's law that bans citizens from having sex outside marriage and prohibiting cohabitation between unmarried couples.

Blinken Conveys U.S. Concern Over Indonesia Criminal Code

By Reuters

Feb. 16, 2023, at 12:30 p.m.

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FILE PHOTO: U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken speaks to the media prior to meetings at the State Department in Washington, U.S., on February 7, 2023. Olivier Douliery/Pool via REUTERS**REUTERS**

By Kanishka Singh and Rami Ayyub

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken expressed Washington's concern about certain provisions in Indonesia's new criminal code in a call Thursday with the country's foreign minister, Retno Marsudi, the State Department said.

War: feb17 Five Held for Alleged Violent Bid to Overthrow Serbian Leader

The protesters gathered in front of the presidency building in downtown Belgrade, carrying banners that read “Kosovo is the heart of Serbia,” “No surrender,” and “Betrayal of Kosovo is betrayal of Russia!”

Journal, government, markets: feb17 As Cash Runs Out, Pakistan Introduces Bill to Unlock IMF Funds

Stats, islam, middle east, china, censorship, government: feb17 China, Iran Call on Afghanistan to End Restrictions on Women

BEIJING (AP) — China and Iran have urged mutual neighbor Afghanistan to end restrictions on women’s work and education.

The call came in a joint statement Thursday issued at the close of a visit to Beijing by Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi during which the two sides affirmed close economic and political ties and their rejection of Western standards of human rights and democracy.

Since taking over Afghanistan in August 2021, the Taliban has banned women and girls from universities and schools after the sixth grade and forced out those in elected offices and other prominent positions.

“The two sides ... called on the Afghan rulers to form an inclusive government in which all ethnic groups and political groups actually participate, and cancel all discriminatory measures against women, ethnic minorities and other religions,” the statement said, adding that the U.S. and its NATO allies “should be responsible for the current situation in Afghanistan.”

Markets, sanctions, Russia, war: feb17 potential russian aluminum tariff coming soon

A potential aluminum shortage could be rearing its ugly head once again. This will prove especially true if the U.S. goes ahead with a proposed move to shut out all Russian aluminum unilaterally. Currently, the plan is to accomplish this via a tariff of up to 200%.

Last year there were rumors that the LME may ban Russian metals causing a massive aluminum shortage. At the time, the decision hinged on fears that Russian metal may flood into the LME as a market of last resort should sanctions shut Russia out of global trade. In the end, the LME decided not to proceed with an outright ban, preferring to follow government guidelines regarding sanctions. In the interim, the flood of Russian metal has yet to materialize.

That said, significant deliveries are beginning to turn up in Asia. The above post reports details nearly 110,000 tons delivered into Gwangyang in South Korea this month by Glencore. This is a portent of what's to come if China cannot absorb all the metal Rusal is pumping out.

It remains to be seen if this is indicative of a disconnect between the LME (increasingly Russian in makeup) and global non-Russian market prices. In the end, it will depend on how deliveries increase over time. Certainly, the trend holds the potential for the LME's aluminum price to decline below the global average. This would be similar to how the LME's nickel price continues to diverge from the global nickel market, albeit the reasons would be different.

Take the fact that the LME 3-month aluminum price has eased since earlier this month, yet the M.W. premium has increased. This is evidence that, while demand is expected to ease in the face of recessionary pressures, metal remains tight and an aluminum shortage is possible. Meanwhile, the rising M.W. premium suggests consumers are concerned they could end up trapped between cooling demand and rising input costs. Ultimately, this could put processors under margin pressure in the months ahead.

By Stuart Burns

War: feb17 US to Give Czechs $200 Million to Modernize Army, Compensate Ukraine Aid

Belarus Says Will Join Ukraine Offensive 'Only' if Attacked

Stats, energy, Russia, government: Analysts Predict 42% Decline In Russian Oil Production By 2035
Feb17

War: feb17 Rheinmetall to Produce 300,000 Gepard Anti-Aircraft Tank Rounds for Ukraine

Rheinmetall has been awarded a contract to manufacture 300,000 rounds for the Gepard anti-aircraft tanks used by the Ukrainian Army. The German defense ministry order is valued in the “low three-digit million-euro range.”

Half of the ammunition will be Armor Piercing Discarding Sabot – Tracers (APDS-T) featuring increased armor penetration.

The other 150,000 rounds will be High Explosive Incendiary – Tracer (HEI-T).

“Rheinmetall is currently creating additional medium-caliber ammunition production capacity, which is due to go into operation in summer 2023,” the company stated in a press release.

“In building this new production line, Rheinmetall is responding to sharply increased global demand.”

The first batch of APDS-T ammunition will arrive in Ukraine by the summer of 2023, while production for the HEI-T rounds will commence in mid-2024.

The Gepard Tank

Developed by Krauss-Maffei Wegmann, the Gepard is a heavily-armored German mobile air defense system based on the chassis of the Leopard main battle tank.

Equipped with twin Oerlikon KDA 35-millimeter guns, each can carry 320 rounds of ready-to-fire, anti-aircraft ammunition.

The tank is fitted with independent search and tracking radars that provide 360-degree scanning and simultaneous target-tracking capability.

Stats, Germany, history, holy roman empire, journal, readlater: Rheinmetall, Founded 13 April 1889; 133 years ago, is a german arms manufacturer...looking into their history would provide a swift reference point for understanding germany during the time of world wars.

They were forced to shutdown due to the armistice after germany lost the war, but restarted operations in the 1930's. Yet, and I've never seen this before, the Wikipedia isn't able to name the specific dates of the company's major acquisitions. It just says "at some point". Strange.

Rheinmetall was founded in 1889. Banker and investor Lorenz Zuckermandel[2] (1847–1928) was one of the founders and the first chairman of the supervisory board. It manufactured steel products, including armaments.

During the post-WWI disarmament of Germany, the company diversified, but by the 1930s armament manufacture resumed. In 1933, it acquired A. Borsig GmbH, which manufactured locomotives.[3]

At some point it bought the Swiss firm **Oerlikon Contraves**, which it later renamed Rheinmetall Air Defence.

At some point it bought the Swiss firm **Oerlikon Contraves Pyrotec**, which it later renamed RWM Schweiz.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rheinmetall

Journal, war, government: feb17 uhh...okay: more than 10,000 ukrainians have been sent to Britain over the last year to turn them into soldiers in the war against Russia.

Under the tutelage of forces from Britain, Sweden, Denmark, the Netherlands and Norway, among others, the Ukrainians will be taught over five weeks about the laws of armed conflict, urban and trench warfare, weaponry and battlefield medicine.

Britain's government said on Thursday it aims to double the number taught in 2023 to 20,000, across a handful of locations around the country.

The move is one part of a ramping-up of support for Ukraine, after NATO alliance officials met the previous day to plot more assistance for Kyiv. Britain is sending 14 Challenger tanks and hundreds more missiles.

War, Erdogan, Russia, government: feb17 Israel Top Diplomat on First Kyiv Trip Since Russia Invasion

Foreign Minister Eli Cohen arrived in Kyiv on Thursday on the first visit to Ukraine by an Israeli minister since the Russian invasion nearly a year ago, his office said.

Cohen "will make an official visit today to Kyiv, during which he will meet President (Volodymyr) Zelensky and Foreign Minister (Dmytr) Kuleba," the Israeli foreign ministry said in a statement after his arrival in the Ukrainian capital.

Israel has ties with both Russia and Ukraine, which have been tested since Moscow's invasion of its neighbour.

Israel provided Ukraine with intelligence to tackle Iran-made drones deployed by Russia, but has employed a

wary approach to Moscow due Russia's military activity in Syria, where Israel has carried out hundreds of air strikes since civil war broke out in 2011.

War, Erdogan, middle east: feb17 turkish fund raising campaign, incuding many tops names in the country, from turkish airlines to the nations central bank, raises 6 billion for earthquake relief efforts

A Turkish fund-raising campaign has raised more than $6 billion (115.1 billion Turkish liras) for victims of last week's devastating earthquakes, according to *Anadolu Agency*.

Several television channels joined forces to hold the Türkiye One Heart campaign. Donors included politicians, companies, state institutions and individual citizens.

Turkey’s Central Bank was the biggest donor, pledging $1.6 billion, while other banks such as Ziraat and Vakif promised $1 billion and $637 million respectively.

The country’s flagship carrier Turkish Airlines and defense firm Baykar contributed $106 million each (2 billion liras) to the campaign.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, members of the cabinet, opposition leaders and several celebrities made large donations.

RELATED

Blinken to visit Turkey as quake death toll nears 42,000

Live Story

The New Arab Staff & Agencies

The funds will be collected by Turkey's Disaster and Emergency Management Presidency and the Turkish Red Crescent.

The series of earthquakes and aftershocks, the worst of which was 7.8 in magnitude, rocked southeastern Turkey and northwestern Syria on 6 February. Nearly 42,000 people have died, although the death toll is expected to rise.

Thousands of structures across the affected regions have collapsed and entire neighbourhoods have been wiped out, sparking anger against the Erdogan government for allowing construction that lacked proper implementation of building standards.

War, government: Oil-Rich Norway Donates $7.4 Billion in Aid to Ukraine

Government, history, Russia: feb17 "The forced displacement of the Chagossians and ongoing abuses amount to crimes against humanity committed by a colonial power against an indigenous people," human rights watch

"The manner in which the Chagossian community was removed from the Territory in the 1960s and 1970s, and the way they were

treated, was wrong and we look back with deep regret," the government said at the time.

The Chagos Islands are the heart of the British Indian Ocean Territory, some 6,000 miles southeast of London and home to the U.S. Navy base at Diego Garcia. The base was built in the 1970s and provides what American authorities have described as "an all but indispensable platform" for security operations in the Middle East, South Asia and East Africa.

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But Diego Garcia has been the source of controversy for decades because the islands were home to about 1,500 people when discussions about the base began in the 1960s. In addition, the islands historically had been administered as a dependency of Mauritius, a U.K. territory that was then moving toward independence.

https://apnews.com/article/politics-united-kingdom-states-government-human-rights-watch-london-ceec69da01789c3e321ddffc1085c23d

War, Africa: feb17 US Launches Another Airstrike in Somalia, Claims 5 al-Shabaab Killed

US Launches Another Airstrike in Somalia, Claims 5 al-Shabaab Killed

The strike is the second known airstrike in Somalia this monthby Dave DeCamp Posted onFebruary 16, 2023CategoriesNewsTagsSomalia

US Africa Command (AFRICOM) announced it launched an airstrike in Somalia against al-Shabaab on Wednesday, the second known US airstrike in the country this month.

Iran, middle east, sanctions, war: feb17 iranian sanctions, even though they explicity state medical to be excluded, are still hampering irans medical system. UN experts said this week

that US sanctions on Iran are causing more deaths of Iranians with thalassemia, a congenital blood disorder that requires specialized medicine. “The lack of access to medication has resulted in many more deaths,” two UN experts, Alena Douhan and Obiora C. Okafor, said, according to a press release put out by the UN on Tuesday.

UN experts said this week that US sanctions on Iran are causing more deaths of Iranians with thalassemia, a congenital blood disorder that requires specialized medicine.

“The lack of access to medication has resulted in many more deaths,” two UN experts, Alena Douhan and Obiora C. Okafor, said, according to a press release put out by the UN on Tuesday.

“Since the re-imposition of sanctions against Iran by the US in 2018, over-compliance with sanctions has escalated, affecting the import of life-saving iron-regulating medicines for Iranian thalassemia patients. This not only violates their right to health, but also results in increased complications and mortality rates,” Douhan and Okafor said.

War, Russia, china: feb17 Ukraine Shoots Down 'Decoy' Russian Balloons As Moldova, Romania Report High-Altitude Objects

*"The balloons were launched to detect & **exhaust our air defense forces**."*

Following last week's balloon shootdown incidents over the United States, there have been a slew of fresh reports involving high-altitude balloon activity over eastern Europe, including incidents involving **objects over Moldova, Romania, as well as potential 'weaponized' balloons over Ukraine**.

"Ukraine's army has said Russia fired 36 cruise missiles on Thursday, a day after six apparently radar-reflecting balloons were spotted over Kyiv," BBC reports. Ukraine authorities have said the balloon activity is related to a change in Russian tactics, which have of late included sending wind-propelled reflective

balloons over the capital and other cities in order to provoke an anti-air response.

Illustrative: A Russian military high-altitude balloon being launched. Source: The Drive/TV ZVEZDA

"These objects could carry radar reflectors and certain reconnaissance equipment," Ukrainian air force spokesman Yurii Ihnat said. **"The balloons were launched to detect and exhaust our air defense forces."**

The military further described that most balloons had been shot down, and they are intentionally designed to be picked up on radar as decoys.

"Balloons with reflectors have also been spotted over the eastern region of Dnipropetrovsk in recent days," BBC continues, also referencing photographs which surfaced on social media in recent days.

Tiny Moldova was among those earlier this week to close its airspace due to an unidentified object, now believed to be a balloon, and Romania even **scrambled fighter jets in response to "an object resembling a weather balloon was spotted at a height of around 11,000 ft (3,350m),"** according to official statements.

In a briefing, Romania's defense ministry said the object wasn't a threat upon closer review, and the it had "characteristics similar to a weather balloon" - but had been picked up on radar and warranted investigation.

Via Telegram: deflated balloon tied to a reflector, believed used by the Russian military to trigger Ukrainian air defense.

The dispatched jets had surveyed the area for about 30 minutes, but "did not confirm the presence of the aerial target, neither visually nor on the onboard radars," and afterward returned to base without incident, defense officials said.

Stats, war, sanctions, Erdogan, censorship, china, government: feb17 NATO Chief Admits: "War Didn't Start In February Last Year, The War Started In 2014"

With the one-year anniversary of Russia's Feb.24, 2022 invasion of Ukraine just around the corner, NATO secretary general Jens Stoltenberg this week issued some surprising words regarding the history and origin of the conflict. In essence he **finally admitted an important truth**, which is of course extremely rare among top Western officials these days.

Whereas prior to these fresh remarks by Stoltenberg, US and NATO officials including major media, have framed the invasion exclusively as merely one man's (Putin) 'unprovoked' naked aggression bent on enlarging an 'expansionist Russia', Stoltenberg now much belatedly admits **"the war didn't start in February last year. *The war started in 2014*."**

Here's what the NATO chief said during a briefing to reporters, and in front of cameras, as also transcribed and published to NATO's official website...

"The other thing I will say is that the war didn't start in February last year. **The war started in 2014**. And since 2014, NATO Allies have provided support to Ukraine, with **training, with equipment, so the Ukrainian Armed Forces were much stronger in 2022, than they were in 2020, and 2014**. And of course, that made a huge difference when President Putin decided to attack Ukraine," Stoltenberg said.

Below are some essential facts and a much-needed trip down memory lane concerning the lead-up to Feb 2022 to understand what we and other independent voices have been saying for years, and what Stoltenberg has just now very belatedly and reluctantly admitted:

- The current Ukrainian government was created in 2014 after a violent, American-backed coup against the elected President Viktor Yanukovich. The so-called "Maidan Revolution" painted itself as pro-EU and liberal, but relied on ultranationalist terror militias such as Right Sector for its muscle.
  - Profile: Ukraine's ultra-nationalist Right Sector - BBC News
- Ukraine's new government has banned the Russian language in schools and businesses, even though it is spoken by most of the residents in the Donbas region as their first language (and throughout other parts of the country as well):
  - New law stokes Ukraine language tensions - France 24
- Pre-February 2022, Ukraine had already lost about 14,000 lives fighting to prevent the ethnically Russian provinces of Lugansk and Donetsk from permanently seceding (the 14,000 figure includes deaths from *both sides* of the civil war in eastern Ukraine). The unpopular war has been going on since 2014.
  - The Russia-Ukraine conflict: a look back at the human toll of fighting since 2014 - The Washington Post
- Few Western journalists are willing to show the misery this conflict has brought to the residents of the Donbas, or the war crimes that have been inflicted upon them. Patrick Lancaster has been one of the few reporting on this:
  - Patrick Lancaster - YouTube
- The Ukrainian government has frequently shut off water to the disputed territories, including Crimea, even while they claim sovereignty over them.
  - Water supply to 345,000 people in eastern Ukraine at risk as Donetsk Filter Station stops operations | OCHA (unocha.org)
  - Russia vs Ukraine: Crimea's Water Crisis Is an Impossible Problem for Putin - Bloomberg.
  - Conflict cuts water supply for thousands in eastern Ukraine | OCHA (unocha.org)
- It's now ok to praise Nazis on Facebook-- as long as they're "our Nazis":
  - Facebook Allows Praise of Ukraine's Neo-Nazi Azov Battalion (theintercept.com)
- Ukrainian President Zelensky suggested last year that if the country could not join NATO, he would pursue re-arming the country with nuclear weapons.
  - UAWire - Zelensky: Ukraine may reconsider its nuclear status

- The New York Times calls this "Putin's conspiracy theory", as if the words didn't come straight from the Ukrainian President's mouth on multiple occasions.

War, Russia: feb17 Second Russian Aircraft Intercept Over Alaska Within 48 Hours

NORAD belatedly reveals back-to-back incidents...

Stats, health, government: feb17 The World Health Organization (WHO) convened an “urgent meeting” this week amid an outbreak of the Marburg virus, which causes one of the world’s deadliest diseases, in Africa.

Health officials say Marburg, first seen in the late 1960s, is related to Ebola. However, **WHO officials say it’s far more deadly, killing upwards of 88 percent of people who contract it.**

The virus has been detected in several African countries over the past several months, including recently in Equatorial Guinea. A small number of Marburg cases were found in Ghana late last year.

“WHO on Tuesday convened an urgent meeting of the Marburg virus vaccine consortium (MARVAC) to discuss the outbreak,” a news release from the United Nations-backed health agency said on Tuesday, adding that Equatorial Guinea has confirmed its first-ever case of the virus. WHO officials say the virus is responsible for nine deaths in the tiny African nation.

The Marburg outbreak was centered around Kie Ntem Province, located in western Equatorial Guinea. The deaths occurred between Jan. 7 and Feb. 7, WHO said, citing reports.

“Surveillance in the field has been intensified,” George Ameh, WHO’s country representative in Equatorial Guinea, was quoted as saying by the Daily Mail during Tuesday’s meeting. “Contact tracing, as you know, is a cornerstone of the response. We have … redeployed the COVID-19 teams that were there for contact tracing and quickly retrofitted them to really help us out.”

War, sanctions ,energy, Russia, government: feb17 Notorious Drug Trafficking Hub Used For Russian Oil Shipments (spaniards playing both sides?)

A Spanish city on the northern coast of Africa between the Mediterranean and the Atlantic Ocean, notorious for being a drug-trafficking hub, has become a major new hub of ship-to-ship transfers of Russian oil and illicit activities aimed at obscuring the origin of the crude, maritime consultancy Windward Ltd said in a report carried by Bloomberg.

Waters around the Spanish city of Ceuta in North Africa have become the scene of an increasing number of ship-to-ship transfers since the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

The activity is clearly linked to Russia, according to Windward.

Russia is believed to be looking to mask tanker routes and locations amid the **rising use of a vast “dark fleet” to evade Western sanctions** and the price caps on Russian oil and products.

According to Windward, **port calls in North Africa have seen a 147% jump in tankers, mostly crude oil tankers, from Russia.** STS transshipment and dark activities in the Black Sea have also soared since the Russian invasion of Ukraine. The dark activities are mainly being carried out by tankers registered in countries such as Panama, Malta, Liberia, or Cameroon, Windward says.

An unusually large number of tankers have changed ownership in recent months in what analysts and shipping industry officials believe is a push from Russia to continue shipping large volumes of its crude and entities willing to profit from the Russian oil trade in a sanctions regime. The ‘dark’ or ‘shadow’ fleet of oil tankers is growing to now include tankers not only shipping sanctioned Iranian and Venezuelan oil, but also increasingly larger volumes of Russian oil and products.

Meanwhile, loadings of Russia’s flagship Urals crude using ship-to-ship (STS) transfers in the Mediterranean surged eight times in January from December to a record in the first full month in which the EU banned seaborne imports of Russian oil. STS loadings, used by traders to move the crude from smaller tankers onto larger ones to make the journey to Asia profitable, have soared since the EU ban came into effect on December 5, according to data from Refinitiv Eikon cited by Reuters earlier this month.

Censorship, government: feb17 US States Move Towards Mandatory Age-Verification For Pornhub

The movement to protect children appears to be driven by social conservatives. Rep. Laurie Schlegel pushed Louisiana's age-verification law. In December, she tweeted:

"Online pornography is extreme and graphic and only one click away from our children. This is not your daddy's Playboy. And if pornography companies refuse to be responsible, then we must hold them accountable. This law is a first step."

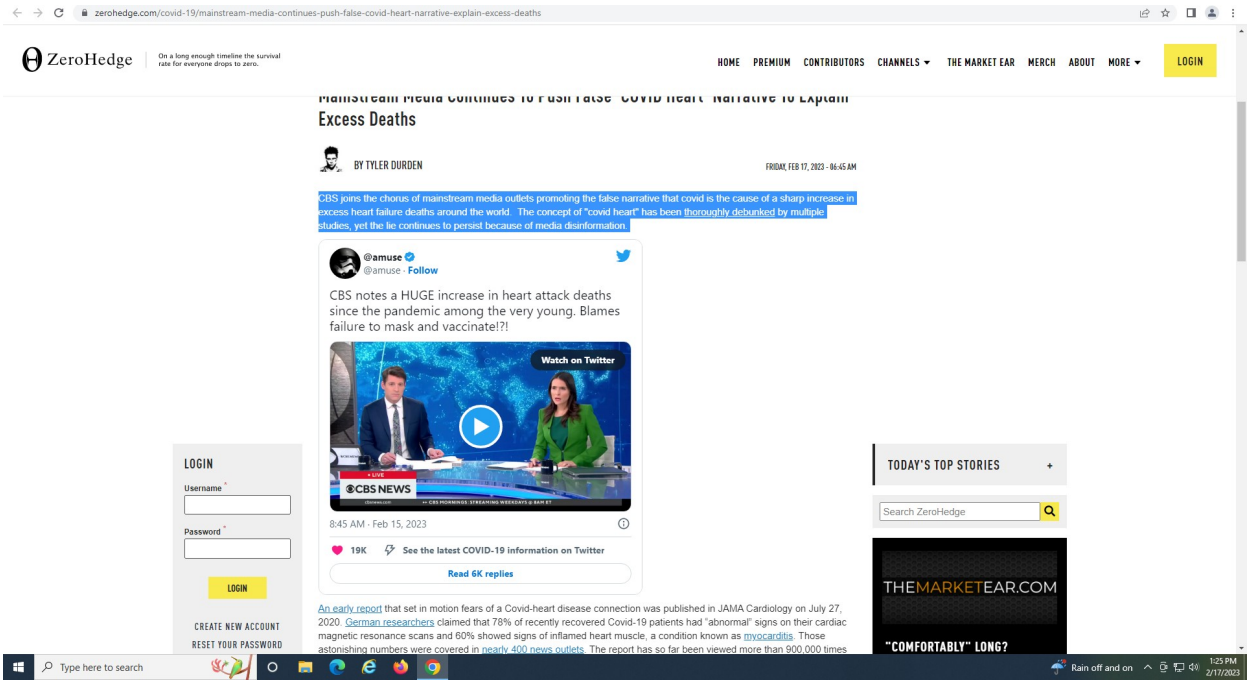
Finally, lawmakers are stepping up a campaign to block unfettered access porn websites. But shouldn't the minor's parents be responsible for internet-blocking software on devices?

Vaccine, censorship, health, stats: feb17 Mainstream Media Continues To Push False 'COVID Heart' Narrative To Explain Excess Deaths

An early report that set in motion fears of a Covid-heart disease connection was published in JAMA Cardiology on July 27, 2020. German researchers claimed that 78% of recently recovered Covid-19 patients had “abnormal” signs on their cardiac magnetic resonance scans and 60% showed signs of inflamed heart muscle, a condition known as myocarditis. Those astonishing numbers were covered in nearly 400 news outlets. The report has so far been viewed more than 900,000 times — a rarity for academic papers.

Soon after its publication, however, the paper was criticized for statistical and methodologic errors. It eventually underwent a long but much quieter correction that indicated that many of the abnormalities were only marginally more common among those recovering from Covid-19 than among similar control individuals who had not had Covid-19.

CBS joins the chorus of mainstream media outlets promoting the false narrative that covid is the cause of a sharp increase in excess heart failure deaths around the world. The concept of "covid heart" has been thoroughly debunked by multiple studies, yet the lie continues to persist because of media disinformation.


zerohedge.com/covid-19/mainstream-media-continues-push-false-covid-heart-narrative-explain-excess-deaths
ZeroHedge
On a long enough timeline the survival rate for everyone drops to zero.
HOME PREMIUM CONTRIBUTORS CHANNELS THE MARKET EAR MERCH ABOUT MORE LOGIN
Excess Deaths
BY TYLER DURDEN
FRIDAY, FEB 17, 2023 - 06:45 AM
CBS joins the chorus of mainstream media outlets promoting the false narrative that covid is the cause of a sharp increase in excess heart failure deaths around the world. The concept of "covid heart" has been thoroughly debunked by multiple studies, yet the lie continues to persist because of media disinformation.
@amuse
@amuse · Follow
CBS notes a HUGE increase in heart attack deaths since the pandemic among the very young. Blames failure to mask and vaccinate!?!
Watch on Twitter
CBS NEWS
8:45 AM · Feb 15, 2023
19K See the latest COVID-19 information on Twitter
Read 6K replies
An early report that set in motion fears of a Covid-heart disease connection was published in JAMA Cardiology on July 27, 2020. German researchers claimed that 78% of recently recovered Covid-19 patients had "abnormal" signs on their cardiac magnetic resonance scans and 60% showed signs of inflamed heart muscle, a condition known as myocarditis. Those astonishing numbers were covered in nearly 400 news outlets. The report has so far been viewed more than 900,000 times
LOGIN
Username
Password
LOGIN
CREATE NEW ACCOUNT
RESET YOUR PASSWORD
TODAY'S TOP STORIES
Search ZeroHedge
THEMARKETEAR.COM
"COMFORTABLY" LONG?
Type here to search
Rain off and on
1:25 PM
2/17/2023

The assertion of the existence of covid heart serves a useful purpose, however, as it conveniently helps to distract from the very real threat of myocarditis caused by mRNA vaccines. Studies show a direct connection between covid vaccination, boosters, and risk of heart failure, specifically in younger people. The corporate media continues to ignore these studies in favor of the covid heart claim.

The CBS report presents a correlation as proof of causation: The explosion in heart failure happened in parallel with the pandemic, therefore, they say it "must be covid" that is causing the damage. But there was one other event that also happened in parallel with the heart failure spike - The introduction of experimental mRNA vaccines which have never been used before.

In reality, there is no evidence of a significant increase in risk of heart problems from contraction of covid, and there are no studies yet that use unvaccinated people as a control group to determine if vaccines help or hurt a patient's chances. Medical officials simply assume that the deaths of younger people are due to them being "less likely" to have been vaccinated. The complete absence of objective scientific analysis has contributed to a lack of understanding surrounding covid risks versus vaccine risks. Mainstream outlets have consistently proven they are only interested in repeating establishment positions and protecting the status quo.

Why don't medical authorities use unvaccinated people as a control group for their observations? Why do they continue to promote assumptions rather than definitive evidence? One can only theorize, but this behavior suggests a desire to hide certain findings and mislead the public rather than uncover the facts.

Crypto, markets: feb17 Binance Reportedly Explores Severing All Ties To US Amid Regulatory Crackdown, CZ Denies

Binance Reportedly Explores Severing All Ties To US Amid Regulatory Crackdown, CZ Denies

BY TYLER DURDEN
FRIDAY, FEB 17, 2023 - 12:29 PM

Update 1130am ET: the digital ink is not yet dry on the Bloomberg report and already CZ is denying the report:

BINANCE CEO SAYS REPORT ABOUT CO CONSIDERING DELISTING ALL U.S.-BASED CRYPTOCURRENCIES IS "FALSE"

Stats, government, india: feb17 “This is the first work of any responsible government to pay attention towards the poor, says local east politican

'Too afraid to sleep': India's homeless women suffer as cities expand

By Rina Chandran, Thomson Reuters Foundation
7 MIN READ

NEW DELHI (Thomson Reuters Foundation) - Manjeet Kaur cannot say exactly how old she is or how long she has lived on the pavement of a busy street in New Delhi, her belongings in plastic bags, her washing hanging on the railing.

Residents at a shelter for homeless women in New Delhi, which has among the most homeless people in India. July 4, 2018. Thomson Reuters Foundation/Rina Chandran

Kaur was kicked out years ago by her husband's family in the northern Indian city of Ludhiana after a quarrel over property. She boarded a bus to New Delhi with her two young sons, going first to a Sikh gurudwara, a place of worship, for free food.

With no money and no one to turn to, Kaur and her sons settled on the pavement outside the gurudwara, marking their space among other families who lived there.

When it rains, they cover themselves with plastic sheets. They have little protection from the winter's cold or the summer heat, when temperatures routinely soar above 40°C (104°F).

"I had nowhere to go. The house, the land - nothing was in my name," said Kaur.

"Here, the police harass us, and the locals curse us, and I'm sometimes too afraid to sleep. But we cannot afford to pay rent and the shelters are not good, so what option do we have?"

Kaur is one of at least 10,000 homeless women in India's capital, where thousands of people arrive everyday from

villages and small towns, looking for better opportunities.

Many end up in slums and other informal settlements. Others settle under bridges, flyovers, on pavements and road dividers.

Women, who are estimated to make up about 10 percent of India’s homeless population, suffer the brunt of a growing crisis brought on by rapid urbanization, soaring property prices, and a critical lack of shelters and affordable housing.

Compounding the difficulty is a lack of reliable data on homeless people, and homeless women in particular.

Delhi, a city of more than 16 million people, has 46,724 homeless people - among the most of any Indian city - according to the 2011 census.

Rights groups say the estimate is conservative, and that the actual figure is three times higher.

They also question the reported decline in India’s homeless population to 1.77 million nationwide in the 2011 census data, from 1.9 million a decade earlier.

In the same period, the urban homeless rose by a fifth, according to the data.

“Our cities are growing at a remarkable rate, and that puts a strain on the government’s capacity to respond to the needs of the people, including the homeless,” said Ashwin Parulkar at the Delhi-based think tank Centre for Policy and Research.

“Not having an accurate understanding of the extent of homelessness - who they are, where they are, what their needs are - hinders policymaking and compromises the ability to plan and provide for them,” he told the Thomson Reuters Foundation.

Slideshow (7 images)

DIFFERENT DEFINITIONS

Globally, at least 150 million people, or about 2 percent of the population, are estimated to be homeless. More than a fifth of the population lacks adequate housing.

But getting an accurate handle on homelessness is difficult because of different definitions in countries, and governments’ inability to adequately measure the phenomenon, said Joseph Chamie, a former director of the U.N. population agency.

Governments also have a tendency to understate the problem, while the homeless are reluctant to be counted, he said.

Yet the causes are the same: poverty, lack of affordable housing, mental illness, alcohol and drug addiction, family breakdown, civil conflict and environmental disasters, he said.

“There is no quick solution: even developed countries are encountering considerable difficulties. So ending urban homelessness in less developed countries is unlikely,” he said.

With at least 55 percent of the world's population living in urban centers, homelessness is ever more apparent, from Los Angeles to Hong Kong.

The problem is especially severe in India, which is forecast to overtake China by 2024 as the world's most populous country, with tens of millions cramming into already crowded cities.

Alongside, evictions are rising: at least six homes are pulled down and 30 people forcibly removed each hour in India to make way for metro stations and highways.

Homeless women bear the brunt, as they face more abuse and violence on the street, but have few claims over property and limited access to shelters, said Shivani Chaudhry at the advocacy group Housing and Land Rights Network in Delhi.

Many of these women have left abusive marriages, suffered sexual violence, or have been abandoned by families for mental illness or after the death of a husband, she said.

"Homeless women suffer the worst kinds of violence and insecurity, and are vulnerable to sexual abuse, exploitation, and trafficking," said Chaudhry.

"Shelters are not a permanent solution."

HOUSING FOR ALL

India has committed to provide housing for all its citizens by 2022, with an aim to build 20 million urban units.

But analysts say the program bypasses homeless people who cannot afford the mortgage payments.

The Supreme Court has ordered states to provide at least one 24-hour shelter for every 100,000 residents in major urban centers.

Few states have complied, citing the high cost of land.

“Our top priority is to have enough permanent shelters with facilities and services, including healthcare, job training and counseling,” said Bipin Rai, a senior official at the Delhi Urban Shelter Improvement Board.

“But the main challenge is lack of land. So we have to make do with temporary shelters,” he said.

Delhi has the most shelters of any Indian city - about 200 to hold more than 16,000 people. There are 20 shelters for women.

More than half the shelters are porta-cabins, which are refashioned steel containers with few facilities.

At some permanent women’s shelters, women get three meals a day, skills training and help getting identification papers and school admissions for their children.

At one such shelter, colorful drawings by the children are on a wall, including several of a simple house flanked by two trees, the sun smiling from above.

“I would like to earn enough so I can live in a house with my family,” said Saima, who had previously lived on the street after coming to Delhi some years ago.

“But that may not be possible. This may be our only home.”

In Memory of 14-Year-Old Chandan. So Many of You Helped Him.

Even by Delhi's miserable January standards, it was a bitterly cold night when we met Chandan in 2013. Volunteers with the Uday Foundation were distributing blankets to the homeless sleeping outside AIIMS. We saw Chandan, who was then 12 years old, on the pavement, covered with few blankets, moaning in pain. He was with his parents who told us that he was suffering from bone cancer and was undergoing chemotherapy at AIIMS. When they ran out of cash, the family, which had travelled to Delhi from Bihar, moved to the pavement.

Chandan in IAF overalls at the Ambala Air Force Station on November 11, 2014.

A report on Chandan aired on NDTV and within two days, Chandan had over twelve lakhs deposited in the bank account that was set up for him. He was immediately shifted to a rented flat. Some of the money was used to cover the cost of his treatment. For the next two years, he underwent 22 sessions of chemotherapy; his smile defied the pain to make long and unforgettable appearances.

Then he got to fly the Jaguar Simulator. In his words, "It was the most cherished moment of my life". The sortie on the simulator lasted for around 20 minutes. The most exciting maneuver, he said, was the loop.

Chandan died today - on Wednesday, February 4. He had just turned 14. For strangers everywhere who helped him, we are all grateful. In our grief, we thank you for your generosity and concern.

https://www.ndtv.com/blog/in-memory-of-14-year-old-chandan-so-many-of-you-helped-him-737028

https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/delhi/after-2-years-no-food-at-city-night-shelters/articleshow/94274340.cms

https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/delhi/delhi-govt-to-offer-3-meals-a-day-at-300-night-shelters/articleshow/89260906.cms

mind-boggling story about being homeless in india; apparently things look to have changed only recently...

History, stats, church: In 1588, Pope Sixtus V issued a papal bull officially classifying abortion, regardless of the stage of fetal development, as homicide.

https://daily.jstor.org/what-a-16th-century-abortion-ban-revealed/#:~:text=In%201588%2C%20Pope%20Sixtus%20V,of%20fetal%20development%2C%20as%20homicide.&text=The%20legal%20status%20of%20abortion,%2Dcontrolled%20sixteenth%2Dcentury%20Italy

Stats, censorship, government: feb16 that black guy apparently gets to 'keep fighting' for the money that was illegally seized from him by police officers without him technically even being charged with anything whatsoever. This is the world we live in today folks! Proofs in the pudding belowww!

Trucker gets to keep fighting to get his seized $39,500 back

MAY 13, 2022
•
Chuck Robinson
|

Jerry Johnson, owner of Triple J. Logistics, gets a win in court that lets him keep fighting to get his $39,500 back after it was seized 19 months ago. No charges were filed in the case, but prosecutors thought it smelled like marijuana. (Photo courtesy Institute for Justice)

The owner of a small trucking business whose cash was seized when he flew to Phoenix for a truck auction has won a court battle allowing him to continue to fight for his money.

Jerry Johnson’s $39,500 in cash was seized Aug. 17, 2020, at Phoenix’s Sky Harbor Airport. It was in two cardboard – $7,500 in his carry-on backpack and $32,000 in boxes he had packed in his checked luggage. He was never charged with any crime, but Maricopa County prosecutors and law enforcement officers seized the money through civil asset forfeiture. They said they suspected that it was drug money being laundered.

Johnson owns Triple J. Logistics, which is licensed in Maryland. He works from the Charlotte, N.C., area hauling dry van freight. He said he was planning to add to his fleet of two Peterbilts with one of several available through Ritchie Bros. Auctioneers in Phoenix.

Required to sign a form

Law enforcement officers interrogated Johnson for an hour at the airport, Johnson told Land Line in July 2021. They told him they thought his money smelled like marijuana. Law enforcement officers knew he had been charged with marijuana and cocaine possession in 2005 and 2012.
When they offered to let him go, they made him sign a paper that was a “disclaimer of ownership” form, Johnson said. It said he was surrendering his money.

“He told me if I didn’t sign that paper he’s going to arrest me,” Johnson told Land Line in July 2021.

He left Phoenix without staying the night or going to the auction. Even though he was never charged with a crime, an Arizona trial court ruled that Jerry failed to prove the cash was his and, therefore, he could not contest the civil forfeiture of his money. Johnson reached out to the nonprofit public interest law firm Institute for Justice to contest the trial court’s ruling.

The decision comes six months after Jerry Johnson’s attorneys and a representative from the Maricopa County Attorney’s Office gave oral arguments before the appeals court as to whether the Maricopa County Superior Court’s finding that Johnson failed to prove the money was his was correct.

In its May 10 decision, the Court of Appeals concluded that, “This was a not a trivial or technical error,” and that the lower court’s ruling violated Jerry’s right to due process, according to news release from the Institute for Justice. The decision further affirms that “Johnson in fact proved he owned the money.”

Judges critical during oral arguments

Judges were critical of the Maricopa County attorney's comments about the ownership of the seized money during the Nov. 9, 2021, oral arguments before the Arizona Court of Appeals.

"I don't know how much I have in my wallet," Judge Peter Swann told the prosecutor in November. "Do you need to check it? Should I be worried that the police are going to come check it? Am I going to have to explain where I got it?"

Swann wrote the court's May 10 decision.

"The state argues that Johnson failed to prove ownership, but if it is not Johnson's money, then whose money is it?" Swann wrote in the decision. "The state failed to introduce any evidence of who owned the money."

The government has 30 days to appeal the Court of Appeals' ruling to the Arizona Supreme Court. If it does not appeal, the case will be sent back to the trial court, where the government will either have to prove that Jerry's money was connected to criminal activity or return it.

"Today's decision points out the obvious: Jerry Johnson properly proved ownership of his money and has the right to defend it in court," Alexa Gervasi, one of the attorneys representing Johnson, said in a written statement. "The scales are already tipped in the government's favor in civil forfeiture, but the lower court went outside the bounds of Arizona law when it forced Jerry to prove his own innocence. We are glad that Jerry will have his day in court to defend against the unjust forfeiture of his life savings."

Arizona civil asset forfeiture reform

Since Johnson's money was seized, On May 5, 2021, such waivers later became illegal after Gov. Doug Ducey signed a bill that reformed Arizona's civil forfeiture laws. Civil asset forfeiture now requires a criminal conviction for the state to forfeit one's property in civil court under most circumstances. ***LL***

China Semiconductor Trade Group Warns US Pact With Japan, Netherlands Threatens Global Industry

- CSIA's response comes about two weeks after the US, Japan and the Netherlands reportedly reached an agreement to impose export controls against China covering certain chip-making equipment, such as ArF Immersion deep ultraviolet lithography machines, a move that would undercut Beijing's ambitions to build up the country's semiconductor capabilities. Details of the trilateral deal have not been made public.

- Dutch chip making equipment supplier ASML Holding, which is barred from selling its most-advanced lithography machines to China, said in its latest annual report that any new restrictions would take months to draw up and enact.

- The China Semiconductor Industry Association said it is opposed to actions that exclude the domestic market from global innovation

- Its response comes about two weeks after the US, Japan and the Netherlands reportedly reached a deal to impose tightened chip export controls on China

A Chinese state-backed semiconductor trade group has warned that the United States-led pact with Japan and the Netherlands to further restrict China's access to chip-making technology poses a threat to the entire industry and marks a step back in the era of free trade.

"China Semiconductor Industry Association (CSIA) firmly protests against such acts which destroy the global semiconductor ecosystem," the 744-member trade body said in a statement published on its website on Wednesday, condemning "inappropriate intervention by governments and authorities". It also called for increased support for globalisation and resistance to efforts that destabilise supply and demand.

"We oppose such acts that exclude China's semiconductor industry from the global innovation system and free-market competition," the group said.

A month before the unilateral export restrictions by the US in October, the CSIA had advocated for China's increased self-reliance in innovating and developing its own core technologies.

Core technologies, however, are China's Achilles' heel, despite having the world's strongest industrial manufacturing capability. The country's semiconductor foundries continue to depend on imported tools in their operations, making them easy prey for Washington in its strategy of tech containment.

Journal, government, middle east, markets: feb16 Through organizations like the World Bank and the IMF America, and NATO, are able to exert direct financial influence over governments worldwide..

“The Egyptian pound has lost half of its value in less than a year, propelling annual inflation in the import-dependent country to 26.5 percent in January.”

Egypt, sapped dry of dollars despite a $3 billion International Monetary Fund bailout loan, is seeking to boost its coffers by selling state assets to wealthy Gulf nations.

Experts say the deals could be a win-win for all sides, but unlike the old Gulf largesse of unconditional aid, the new deals will require reforms.

Cairo hopes the cash injection will plug what the IMF warns is "a financing gap of about $17 billion over the next four years".

For Kuwait, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, eager to diversify their oil and gas-based economies, it provides a swift route to snap up assets, land and stakes in state enterprises in the North African nation.

War, middle east: feb16 Iraq PM 'Pledges to Rid Cities of Militias Within a Year'

War, Erdogan, middle east: feb16 French UN Official Threatens Forced Entry of Aid Convoys to Syria

French UN official Nicolas de Riviere threatened to draft a resolution according to Chapter VII of the UN charter to force the entry of aid convoys through all Syrian border crossings.

De Riviere, the Permanent Representative of France to the UN on the situation in Syria, made his comments on Monday, 13 February, amid the controversy concerning the opening of border crossings between government-controlled parts of the country’s opposition-held areas in the north bordering Turkey to provide aid to Syrian civilians in the wake of last week’s devastating 7.8 magnitude earthquake.

De Riviere's comments suggested the Syrian government was to blame for blocking the flow of aid to desperate residents in areas not under its control.

However, Abu Muhammad Al-Julani, the leader of Hayat Tahrir al-Sham (formerly the Al-Qaeda-affiliated group known as the Nusra Front), acknowledged that his group was responsible for preventing the flow of aid from government-held to the opposition-held territory. Julani insisted that help enter territory under the extremist group's control through the Bab al-Hawa crossing between northern Syria and Turkey.

The Syrian government officially opened two new border crossings in northern Syria, Saraqib and Abu Azeidin, to provide earthquake relief aid to people in opposition-held territory. Deputy Head of the Russian Reconciliation Center, Major General Oleg Yegorov, said at a briefing on 13 February.

Yegorov stated that convoys were ready to set off for the affected areas, escorted by representatives of the Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC). Yegorov's statement followed high-level talks between Assad and UN aid chief Martin Griffiths in Damascus on the same day, during which the Syrian president agreed to open the crossings.

However, on 12 February, an HTS source was quoted as saying that the group "won't allow the regime to take advantage of the situation to show they are helping," while the following day, HTS leader Julani claimed during a press conference that his group "does not have teams ready to secure these deliveries."

"There is no need to dispatch our technical teams to bring aid in from regime territory … The Bab al-Hawa crossing is there … For those who want to help, Bab al-Hawa is open, God willing," Julani said, even though roads leading to the

Bab al-Hawa crossing were severely damaged in the earthquake.

The Bab al-Hawa crossing played a crucial role during the 7-year US, Gulf, British, French, Israeli, and Turkish-backed insurgency against the Syrian government, which began in 2011. The crossing, through which Western and regional intelligence agencies funneled foreign fighters and weapons into Syria, provided lucrative benefits to whichever armed group controlled it due to taxes imposed on all items transiting through it.

Bab al-Hawa was often contested among the foreign-backed Salafist armed groups fighting the Syrian government under the Free Syrian Army (FSA) banner.

During the war, the French government strongly supported Julani and the Al-Qaeda-affiliated Nusra Front. Then French Foreign minister Laurent Fabius stated in August 2012 that "Bashar al-Assad does not deserve to be on earth" and in December 2012 that Julani's "Al-Nusra Front is doing a good job" in the war against the Syrian government.

War, Erdogan: feb16 The sale of a Bahraini island to Israeli company Himnota triggered nationwide outrage in Bahrain on Monday, when it was revealed by an Israeli news outlet that the company had bought the island for a mere $21.5 million in an auction.

War, Erdogan: feb16 Northwest Syria of 'Greatest Concern' After Quake -WHO

GENEVA (Reuters) -The World Health Organization said on Wednesday it was particularly concerned over the welfare of people in northwestern Syria, a rebel-held region with little access to aid, since the earthquakes struck last week.

"It's clear that the zone of greatest concern at the moment is the area of northwestern Syria," WHO's emergencies director, Mike Ryan, told a briefing in Geneva.

read later: Hacking, Extortion, Election Interference: These Are the Tools Used by Israel's Agents of Chaos and Manipulation

Hacking, Extortion, Election Interference: These Are the Tools Used by Israel's Agents of Chaos and Manipulation

Revealed: The cyberweapons a key Israeli company offers its clients in order to corrupt democracies across the globe

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***Omer Benjakob* and**
Gur Megiddo
Feb 15, 2023 6:08 am IST

“Thank you my love. It was a wonderful night. Waiting for you whenever you come back,” read the note attached to the sex toy hidden inside the Amazon delivery box. It was allegedly sent by Shannon Aiken, a 38-year-old Washington woman, to the home of a politician at the height of an election campaign. His wife received the package. The politician slept in his office for two days. A crew was secretly sent to film him there, and the embarrassing footage leaked online.

Aiken appears real. She is active on Facebook and Twitter, has a real Gmail account and an active WhatsApp, both linked to a real phone number. Her Amazon is connected to a credit card, while real funds from her digital wallet paid for the package purportedly containing a dildo, condoms and lubricants.

However, despite her impressive digital footprint, Aiken is not real. She is an avatar: a complex, fake digital persona built to mimic human behavior and avoid detection – not a bot, but a “cyborg.”

It is impossible to know if her story is true. In one version we were told, the politician returned from a trip to the Gulf prior to receiving the package; in another, from Europe. But that is exactly the point.

Tal Hanan is the man who told us the different versions of Aiken’s story and the person in command of an army of fake social media accounts.

Hanan is the head of a business that offers dark services to the highest bidder: digital surveillance, hack-and-leak smear campaigns,

influence operations, disinformation, and election interference and suppression.

Foreign Information Manipulation and Intervention, or FIMI, is increasingly considered a threat to national security and international stability. It is usually attributed to states or state agencies in countries such as Russia or China. Hanan, a private actor, and his team claim to have been active for more than a decade and boast meddling in 33 presidential elections – 27 of them successfully.

This is the second story in a global investigation into the disinformation-for-hire industry. It was conducted as part of the Story Killers project led by Forbidden Stories, a Paris-based consortium of international journalists who pursue the work of assassinated or threatened journalists.

An undercover investigation led by journalists from TheMarker, Radio France and Haaretz in Israel resulted in a series of meetings that were secretly recorded with Team Jorge – as they called themselves. Hanan (who called himself Jorge in our meetings) and Co. thought they were meeting with representatives of a potential client from an African country.

The clients' goal: postponing the elections there, perhaps indefinitely, without cause. The price: 6 million euros (nearly $6.5 million).

Over the course of six meetings, held online and in person, the intermediaries – actually, three undercover reporters – were pitched by Team Jorge. The recorded materials were then investigated over six months by the project members, which included over 100

reporters worldwide from the likes of Le Monde, Der Spiegel, Die Zeit, The Guardian, Paper Trail Media, El Pais and the investigative journalist group OCCRP.

The Team Jorge brand is at the center of this global investigation. This report reveals the dangerous mix of technology and tradecraft the group offers. It meshes the worlds of active intelligence and psychological warfare into a one-stop-shop that includes hacking for hire, digital spying and surveillance, never-before-seen technologies for the mass creation and deployment of fake accounts, and tools for social media manipulation and the dissemination of disinformation online.

These are sold together, as a service, to the highest bidder, including political actors – but also private ones like embattled oligarchs and cryptocurrency dealers – looking to use influence tools to smear rivals or hype digital currencies.

Open gallery view

Election interference – a guide

Every influence operation, Hanan explained during our first meetings, has three stages: gathering intelligence, constructing a narrative, and deploying for maximum impact.

For the first stage, Team Jorge offers a dizzying array of intelligence skills, including hacking and cyberoffense. Once targets are selected (for example, officials in a rival political campaign), Team Jorge claim they can hack into their emails and messaging apps like Telegram – both troves of valuable information. At a later stage,

these can be manipulated and hacked materials can even be leaked or forged. Hanan called this “active intelligence.”

“An email [account] is not just email today, right? You have contacts, you have a Drive. Let’s see what he has on his Drive,” Hanan said as he scrolled through his victim’s Google account

Open gallery view

The Telegram account of a senior Kenyan politician. Hanan demonstrated how he sends messages from the hijacked account

“Nick” – aka Zohar, Tal’s brother – chimed in during the face-to-face meeting we had with the team. He explained that sometimes people keep their passwords in their drafts or in notes that are backed-up on their email, providing more actionable intel. “Sometimes people

[save] their password in [the] Notes [app],” he explained. “So we taking the notes, we taking the passwords … even to the bank,” he added in his Israeli-accented English.

The Hanan brothers would go on to explain how their hacking capabilities work – stunning the experts.

They take advantage of a known loophole in the international cellular network, in what experts say is a new, creative and disconcerting way. With the help of an official telecom provider – usually accessed through some nefarious backhanded local cooperation – and a little social engineering, they claim to be able to find almost any phone in the world and even intercept its data to gain access to many of its apps.

“It's $50,000 a number,” Zohar Hanan said during our last meeting, admitting the group also offers general hacking-for-hire services. He suggested different methods for payment, but his brother shouted out from his office: “Crypto! Crypto!”

Profiler

The mobile hacking abilities of Team Jorge, much like most intel gathering, is based on a program called Profiler.

Profiler is an open source and web intelligence (OSINT and WEBINT) tool that creates a full intelligence profile on targets by scraping known online databases. It also seems able to collect data from less legitimate sources: It is able to match names to numbers that should not be public.

For example, Tal Hanan claimed, feeding Profiler a target’s phone number allows Team Jorge to find its SIM card’s ID - or its

“international mobile subscriber identity.” This is then used to geolocate it via the international roaming system and perhaps even to intercept its communications by exploiting it.

Unlike spyware such as the NSO Group’s Pegasus, this type of attack does not leave digital forensics on a device.

Hanan revealed how Profiler served them in a project in the Gulf that is best described as political persecution. A local sheikh gave Team Jorge an anonymous Twitter account and, with Profiler’s help, they managed to trace it back to its actual owner – thus revealing the dissident's identity.

Global Bank Scan

Another tool in Team Jorge’s intelligence arsenal is Global Bank Scan. Hanan said this could create a full financial profile on targets – including secret offshore accounts and wire transfers – by accessing a global banking database. This is likely false.

According to sources, in more than one instance clients he supplied with financial data suspected that the information was bogus.

Open gallery view

D-Day: Hard-core release

Intel collection is just the first phase in Team Jorge’s disinformation operations. Dirt is collected to help their client reach their goal – whether that be smearing a competitor, suppressing voter turnout or even wreaking havoc during an Election Day in Africa.

“D-Day,” as they term Election Day, can also require active measures: from cellphone attacks to “killing” the internet as voting

begins, per a fastly cut video clip Team Jorge showed to potential clients.

“Electronic warfare, let’s call it,” said Hanan, elaborating on what their presentation dubs “voter suppression” services. These also include “blame game” tactics and something they call “hard-core release.” These include targeting rivals’ phones, as well as wide-scale cyberattacks such as DDoS attacks (standing for distributed denial-of-service – which overwhelms a site with traffic, knocking it offline) against government websites.

There are many types of attack offered as part of Team Jorge’s “disruption” services – but their underlying goal is nearly always concerned with lowering turnout, casting doubt on potentially negative results and generally undermining trust in the democratic process.

These attacks are “evidence of the bleeding of state-sponsored tactics of cyberwarfare into the hands of for-hire cybermercenaries,” said Dr. Nir Grinberg, an assistant professor at Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, Be’er Sheva. He previously published one of the definitive studies about disinformation on Twitter during the 2016 U.S. presidential election.

“The outsourcing of disinformation campaigns is a new concept,” he said – specifically “the bundling of cybercrime capabilities for manufacturing an alternative reality with an elaborate apparatus to promote this disinformation online.”

The combination of intelligence, influence and political strategy services is what made Team Jorge’s pitch unique: “It’s not PR work; it’s intelligence work,” Hanan said during one Zoom presentation.

“PR is just one means to get information out. The key with intelligence is that there is no one solution … and nothing works 100 percent. Okay. Let me show you what does work.”

Advanced Impact Media Solutions

At the heart of Team Jorge’s service stands Advanced Impact Media Solutions (AIMS), an advanced disinformation system that this investigation is revealing for the first time.

A software system capable of creating and deploying fake accounts across social media at scale and without detection, AIMS was developed by Team Jorge to serve as a versatile online influence and social media manipulation tool.

Open gallery view

Hanan's AIMS system, for creating and operating thousands of deep avatars

“What is fake news?” Hanan asked rhetorically during one meeting. “Fake news is when people do believe it. Not because it’s reality or not reality. The question is credibility.”

And Hanan has the necessary tools to create and manipulate credibility.

A mass avatar management system, AIMS allows for real accounts to be created for nonexistent people. These can then be deployed either as a swarm – similar to a network of bots – or as single agents.

“Let’s make one together,” Hanan said enthusiastically, opening AIMS’ “Create Profiles Wizard” – an interface that creates new avatars per a client’s needs.

With one click, AIMS generates a new name, ethnicity, nationality, language, hometown and more for the new avatar, based on the campaign’s location or needs. After picking a name, AIMS then offers an entire set of photos for use.

Hanan created a new avatar for us: a woman from the United Kingdom. He did not like the generic British name his system initially provided, so hit a button and generated a new name: “Sophia Wilde – I like the name.” Her photos, this investigation found, belong to a real woman who had no idea her likeness was being used to demo influence operations.

Open gallery view

The AIMS avatar creation wizard that Hanan showed the undercover reporters

AIMS does not use AI to generate its avatars' photos. These can be spotted by social media sites like Facebook and Twitter, which are still scrambling to address "coordinated inauthentic behavior." AIMS gives its avatars real pictures belonging to real people, lending them further credence. "And after you've created credibility, what do you do? Then you can manipulate," Hanan explained.

Digital footprint

A single click will breathe digital life into the fake persona, automatically opening a Gmail account under the avatar's name, in their native language and registered to their home country – all to avoid detection.

The avatar also gets a local cellphone number, which is used to verify the email account. "All our avatars are SMS-verified," said Hanan proudly.

The phone number and email, he claimed, form the basis for an avatar's digital identity – and they also get a unique digital footprint: "[Sophia is using] Chrome on this version of Windows," Hanan noted.

Additional layers are then added to the avatar: specific accounts on specific platforms, from Instagram to WhatsApp – all of which require either an email or phone number (or both) to register.

AIMS, a dropdown menu reveals, can purportedly automatically create verified accounts on dozens of websites. These go well beyond Twitter and Facebook, and include communication app Discord and interactive livestreaming service Twitch, as well as websites such as Reddit, Amazon and Airbnb, and even gaming sites. It is unclear if this aspect of AIMS is actually fully automated. However, Team Jorge claims that any site with a login can be added to enrich an avatar's identity and grant them more credibility.

Some even have digital wallets. "If someone looks and checks our avatar, he will see it even has a crypto wallet ... with Bitcoin," Hanan boasted.

He showed us the Shannon Aiken profile again – the avatar that purportedly sent sex toys to a politician. "She has a credit card," he laughed. "What do you think: is it real or not?"

Virgin avatars

Shannon Aiken is one of the "stars" of AIMS – part of the elite unit in Team Jorge's army of avatars. Avatars, Hanan explained, are like wine: the older, the better. Aiken's Gmail and Facebook accounts have been active for more than two years, he noted proudly.

Single avatars like Aiken can serve as lone agents of chaos, helping to create a political scandal. However, others are needed to amplify it into a story through an automated social media campaign.

Open gallery view

Shannon Aiken's avatar. "Thank you my love. It was a wonderful night"

AIMS' home screen boasted over 31,000 avatars when we first saw it last summer. During our last meeting, in December, it showed almost 40,000.

Under each avatar's name and photo, a list of icons indicated the social media platforms on which they are active. Not all avatars are created equal: There is a star system, ranking the quality of each one in the system.

Alongside stars like Aiken, the AIMS avatars are organized according to language and location, so they can easily be grouped and deployed in different contexts.

AIMS' avatar management dashboard listed the following groups: Africa, Arabian, Armenian, Brazilian, Canada, European (mix), Kenya, Panama, Philippines, Russia, Senegal, South America, Ukraine, USA and Zimbabwe. Later we shall see some from Francophone Africa.

There are also avatars active in cryptocurrency such as Bitcoin, and NFTs, the artificially scarce digital objects created by using blockchain technology. Even Aiken was found to have tweeted about crypto coins, highlighting how the same avatars can serve different campaigns.

“These are technologies and skills that have never been seen from the inside,” said Prof. Anat Ben-David, a digital media researcher at the Department of Sociology, Political Science and Communications at the Israeli Open University. (At the reporters' request, she reviewed the footage from the Team Jorge presentations.) The disinformation researcher added that this was the “first time we are seeing a disinformation system's interface from the inside.”

How many avatars would you need to postpone an election in Africa without good cause, Hanan asked rhetorically. “Do we need 10,000? No, we need about 1,000,” he responded. Half, he added, could be “virgin” – an industry term for new avatars, created just for us – and half could be preexisting avatars, depending on “how much inventory we have [from] other African countries.”

After selecting a group of avatars, Hanan showed us an “automatic campaign creation” screen and demonstrated how they could now be deployed en masse. The avatars can push out posts on Facebook, or Like or comment on each other’s posts to amplify a message. On Twitter, they can promote a link or try to get a certain hashtag to trend.

We asked for a real-life demonstration, which Hanan provided, leading the investigation to over 1,800 accounts on Twitter and Facebook that were active in at least 19 campaigns in 18 countries for political but mostly private clients. These ranged from a campaign against California Gov. Gavin Newsom to one in favor of a South American corporation.

Open gallery view

The #Rip_Emmanuel demo Hanan provided for us exposed 19 real-world disinformation campaigns

The content for campaigns is created by a local team hired by the client but managed by Team Jorge, Hanan explained – a troll farm, of sorts.

During our final meeting, in December, AIMS had not just grown its number of avatars. It had also been upgraded to include AI capabilities. Now, you no longer need to upload a spreadsheet with posts written by hired hands; AIMS can automatically generate posts

based on a set of keywords. These can be “positive,” “negative” or “neutral” – thus rendering the troll farm obsolete.

600 fake links

Another tool in Team Jorge’s arsenal is Blogger. This helps provide the links the avatars push out during campaigns. These can range from leaked materials to videos, and are hosted on seemingly real websites – the sites and blogs it creates.

Blogger, Hanan explained, can create “600 links for the same news” story. That way, he said, “I don’t care” if the links get burned. “We can create as many links [for] content [as] we want. The blogs themselves are not important, even though they help for SEO [Search Engine Optimization] – but we don't go there. We don't need it for that. We needed it to put them on social media.”

We did not see a working version of the Blogger system, but did see its output: A spreadsheet with hundreds of links leading to what seemed like the same handful of news stories and videos from an election in Asia. A number of the campaigns found through suspected avatars posted links to similar sites that have since been taken offline.

As a result, the campaign can come full circle: the materials obtained through hacking and active intelligence, including forged materials, are leaked online. Blogger creates the links and the avatars amplify them.

Every “10 avatars, every 10 promotions, every 10 campaigns, I change the link. It’s unlimited, basically,” Hanan said. “The link is for

a video and it can be YouTube or a website we set up. Then we usually do a leak site – like WikiLeaks, but with a different name."

Facebook groups can also be created. "We create credibility for this leak site and we put it on social media," he explained. Avatars discovered by the consortium of journalists also posted links to websites and news reports. They offered leaks about different businesspeople and officials who were the targets of the different campaigns.

Similar tactics described by Hanan can apparently now be seen in Kenya, where an unidentified actor is offering leaked materials purporting to be the "real" result of last summer's presidential election, which Team Jorge's likely client lost.

"The most disturbing part is the bundle of services," says digital media researcher Ben-David. "For those developing these technologies, elections are not really a democratic process but a battleground in which any means are justified. These are simply weapons of war, and they're being used against democracy."

Experts explained that, many times, the goal of disinformation campaigns is not to advance a specific agenda but rather, to create the conditions needed for advancing alternative narratives.

"There is a long shadow over the effectiveness of social media disinformation campaigns," said disinformation researcher Grinberg. "Therefore, it may very well be that the biggest impact of disinformation campaigns – like the ones reported here – is in creating a facade of effectiveness that is larger than life, and pushing us closer to questioning the authenticity of everything we see online."

‘We’re nothing’

In 2019, the Archimedes Group – an Israeli disinformation firm – was revealed to be operating dozens of fake Facebook accounts on behalf of political clients in Africa, Asia and Latin America. The connection between Israeli IP addresses and accounts elsewhere exposed them as being fake. Consequently, the firm, its groups and its workers were all banned from the platform.

Team Jorge and AIMS overcame this exposure by using “residential proxies” – a complex system of connections that mask the location of their activities while also providing them and their avatars with a local identity.

Unlike Virtual Private Networks (VPNs), which are used to change our virtual location, residential proxies use actual devices located in the target country to avoid detection – at times rerouting trafficking in creative ways. In fact, while VPNs are easily detectable, residential proxies are not. That is why they serve as the “oil of the disinformation industry,” says Donncha Ó Cearbhaill, an ethical hacker and researcher who worked with the investigation.

Team Jorge, this investigation believes, works with a residential proxy provider, in order to provide its avatars with local digital identities in the form of real IPs that cannot be found by social media sites.

Team Jorge also seems to work with a cellular provider that serves AIMS in a similar manner, likely giving avatars their local numbers and supplying the infrastructure needed to grant them SMS verification.

The deliberately misleading technical infrastructure also serves to hide such actors. The process creates another layer of plausible deniability between, in this case, Team Jorge, the client and the campaign’s content, and helps them further mask the truth. Or, as Hanan put it in one presentation: “My signal is from Indonesia, the WhatsApp from Hong Kong, Telegram from Germany. And none of them are my numbers.”

At that stage, Hanan still believed digital trickery could help hide his identity. “Jorge” was still Jorge. During our last meeting, the man who we now knew to be Tal Hanan asked if we saw what was written on the door outside his office in Modi’in. “Nothing. It says nothing. That’s who we are. We’re nothing.”

Tal Hanan and Zohar Hanan refused to answer questions. Tal Hanan denied “any wrongdoing.” Zohar Hanan said: “I have been working all my life according to the law!”

War, Russia, government: feb16 East Palestine "Residents May Already Be Undergoing DNA Mutations," Class Action Lawsuit Alleges

Norfolk Southern is not off to a great start. There are increasing reports that residents are experiencing short-term health impacts after the derailment and controlled burn of toxic chemical vinyl chloride. Residents as far away as Pittsburgh are wondering about potential health impacts, according to local media, Pittsburgh Post-Gazette.

And then, there are long-term health implications with exposure to vinyl chloride, such as an increased risk of developing a rare form of liver cancer (hepatic angiosarcoma), liver cancer (hepatocellular carcinoma), brain and lung cancers, lymphoma, and leukemia.

War, government, Russia: feb16 Another Derailment?! Train Carrying Hazardous Materials Crashes Near Detroit

Amid the chaos in Ohio, and two more (one in Texas and one in South Carolina), yet another train has derailed Thursday in **Van Buren Township outside Detroit, Michigan**.

Fox News reports that **at least one car contains hazardous materials.**

Police told Fox2 Detroit that there were **no injuries and the area is not a hazmat situation.**

"We are also in touch with the relevant federal authorities, including the EPA," Rep. Debbie Dingell, D-Mich., said in a statement obtained by Fox2 Detroit.

"At this time no one is aware of the release of any hazardous materials, the car carrying hazardous material has been put upright and is being removed from the area of the other derailed cars, and EPA is dispatching a team to ensure public safety," she said.

The Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy also said it is "aware of the train derailment in Van Buren Township, Wayne County,

where **initial reports indicate no threat to the public from the derailment.**

Developing...

journal: WOW factor in effect: currently shocked by the weather right now as of 2: 18pm. It's s hot that I had to remove all my layers, and even my scarf. While I was walking, I even began to feel the sun beating down like a hot summer day....Truly amazing for this to be happening in the middle of february after everything else that has transpired following record breaking heat in what was supposed to be the worst energy crisis in modern histry, or what was coined by the media, "putins winter".

Tech, ai: feb16 ‘They look alien’: NASA uses AI to design complex spacecraft parts

https://interestingengineering.com/innovation/nasa-ai-assisted-spacecraft-design
that'sa what I said when I saw this AI generated exoskeleton for a conventional airplane. It looked like smething that had been created by an alien or something...

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aR5N2Jl8k14

Tech, ai: feb16 Now you can sit back and watch a robot pump gas into your cars https://interestingengineering.com/innovation/robot-gas-pump

Readlater, Russia, war: Russian Diplomats Issue Dire Warnings That War With US Is Close

Authored by Kyle Anzalone & Will Porter,

The Kremlin's top diplomat has warned that Western involvement in Ukraine is nearing **"the point of no return,"** accusing the United States and the NATO bloc of attempting to transform the country into a "Russophobic military stronghold." Meanwhile, Moscow's UN envoy declared that all of Russia's "red lines" have already been crossed.

Addressing lawmakers at Russia's State Duma on Wednesday, Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov outlined the causes of the current conflict in Ukraine and the deterioration of US-Russia relations, saying Washington has a "maniacal desire to revive the neo-colonial unipolar world order."

"An integral part of this policy is the long-term containment of Russia, including through the expansion of NATO towards our borders, as well as the transformation of fraternal Ukraine into **a Russophobic military stronghold**," he said. "In recent years, this line of Washington and its European satellites has reached the point of no return."

After the fall of the Soviet Union, Washington and several other Western states gave assurances to Moscow that the NATO alliance would not expand beyond Germany. However, in the years since, Presidents Bill Clinton, George W. Bush, Barack Obama and Donald Trump have each allowed new members to join the alliance, all of them inching closer to Russia's borders.

Starting in 2008, NATO has repeatedly declared its intention to someday allow Ukraine to become a member, again reiterating that pledge at a recent alliance summit. The move would cross the **"brightest of all red lines"** for Moscow, as was previously noted by then-State Department official and current CIA Director William Burns, who penned a 2008 memo warning of the geopolitical perils of extending membership to Kiev.

Still, President Joe Biden has refused to change course, insisting it is up to Ukraine whether it would like to join the US-led military bloc while effectively making Kiev a de facto member in the meantime. In an interview with Newsweek on Tuesday, Russia's UN envoy Dmitry Polyanskiy argued that the West has not respected Moscow's core security concerns, and has become directly involved in the conflict in Ukraine.

"All the red lines have already been crossed by Western countries. There is already semi-direct involvement of NATO in the conflict because it's not only weaponry but it's intelligence," he said. "It's the situation when the targets of certain artillery systems, in particular HIMARS, these targets can be hit only with the coordination with Washington."

Last week, the Washington Post reported that Ukraine relies on American intelligence for selecting targets. Since the start of the year, the White House has authorized the shipment of main battle tanks and long-range rockets to Kiev. Additionally, NATO appears to be preparing to send Western-made warplanes to Ukraine.

"It means that NATO is not only providing weapons but also are choosing the targets for Ukrainian strikes," *Polyanskiy continued.*

He went on to allege that citizens from NATO countries are already fighting – as well as getting captured and killed – in Ukraine. **"We know this from the people that we capture and from the bodies that we see on the battlefield."** The ambassador said Western weapons would only escalate the conflict, even warning that foreign intervention could eventually trigger a nuclear war.

"It's absolutely clear that any deliveries of weapons to the zone of conflict, of course, is **like pouring oil into the fire**," he said, adding "If you are dealing with a nuclear power and if you are citing the goal of inflicting defeat to this nuclear power, you should have all the options in mind of our possible response."

In their remarks, both diplomats also pointed to potential American involvement in the destruction of the Nord Stream pipelines. Last week, investigative journalist Seymour Hersh published a bombshell report claiming that Washington planned to bomb the pipelines. The White House has denied that it had any part sabotaging the line, though Senator Mike Lee later acknowledged that it was possible.

On Wednesday, Polyanskiy said that Moscow requested a UN meeting next week to address Hersh's reporting. Lavrov rejected denials from the Biden administration, saying the West is "**lying, hiding the truth about the terrorist attacks** on the Nord Stream and Nord Stream-2 gas pipelines, just as they lied about the Minsk agreements."

Former German Chancellor Angela Merkel claimed the Minsk agreement, which ostensibly was meant to end the civil war in Ukraine, was really intended to give Kiev time to build up its military. In a December 1 interview with Der Spiegel,

Merkel said that she believes that during the Minsk talks, she was able to buy the time Ukraine needed to better fend off a Russian attack.

Dozens of migrants killed in shipwreck. many also died on the trip across the atlantic during the trans-atlantic slave trades.

GENEVA (AP) — An inflatable rubber boat carrying migrants wrecked off the coast of Libya and 73 people were missing and presumed dead, the U.N. migration agency said Wednesday. It was the latest tragedy involving migrants seeking better lives in Europe.

The U.N. International Organization for Migration said in a statement that the disaster took place Tuesday and that Libya authorities had retrieved 11 bodies.

It said the boat, packed with around 80 migrants, reportedly departed from the village of Qasr al-Akhyar, 80 kilometers (50 miles) east of the capital, Tripoli. The migrants were heading to European shores, it said.

The dead included one woman and 10 men, said Safa Msehli, IOM’s spokesperson.

It was not immediately clear what happened to the vessel but images showed the deflated broken-up rubber boat on shore.

Seven migrants, all men, survived the mishap and made it to Libyan shores, the U.N. said, and were in “extremely dire conditions.” They were taken to a hospital.

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Qasr al-Akhyar officials shared footage online showing Libya’s Red Crescent workers handling dead bodies that washed ashore. The footage also showed the broken-up inflatable rubber boat.

A survivor said in a different video shared by the municipality that scores of migrants were killed in the shipwreck. He said they paid between $3,000 to $5,000 each to smugglers to make the ill-fated trip.

POLITICS

How Ukraine war has shaped US planning for a China conflict

Biden gets routine medical exam as he prepares for 2024 run

Biden taking new steps to address racial inequality in gov't

Haley's candidacy shows balancing act for women in politics

In video comments, Salem Awag, the top Qasr al-Akhyar official, called on authorities in Tripoli to step up support to the village to help guard the shore and prevent further crossings.

Tuesday’s shipwreck was the latest tragedy in the central Mediterranean Sea, a key route for migrants. The death toll on that route has reached at least 130 migrants this year, IOM said.

In 2022, more than 1,450 migrants died, according to the IOM’s missing migrants project.

“This situation is intolerable,” said Safa Msehli, the organization’s spokesperson. She called on governments to increase search and rescue efforts and to “establish clear and safe disembarkation mechanisms as well as safe and regular pathways to migration.

Off Libya’s shores alone, at least 529 migrants were reported dead and 848 others missing last year, while over 24,680 were intercepted and returned to the country, according to the IOM.

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Libya has in recent years emerged as the dominant transit point for migrants from Africa and the Middle East trying to make it to Europe. The oil-rich country plunged into chaos following a NATO-backed uprising that toppled and killed longtime autocrat Moammar Gadhafi in 2011.

Human traffickers in recent years have benefited from the chaos in war-torn Libya, smuggling in migrants across the desert country’s lengthy borders with six nations. The migrants are then typically packed into ill-equipped rubber boats and set off on risky sea voyages.

European countries have in recent years pushed Libyan authorities and the coast guard to detain and intercept migrants attempting to cross to European shores.

Many of those who have been intercepted and returned to Libya — including women and children — are held in government-run detention centers where they suffer from abuse, including torture, rape and extortion, according to rights groups.

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Magdy reported from Cairo.

https://apnews.com/article/politics-accidents-libya-government-united-nations-europe-8a82bc6c9c89d8a966057b7084965e37

Africa, inflation: feb16 Protests Break Out in Nigerian City Over Cash Shortages

"Major roads were blocked while banks, shops and other businesses were shut," local journalist Remi Feyisipo told AFP.

Angry bank customers burned tyres and blocked streets in a southwest Nigerian city on Wednesday in protests over scarcity of naira cash, police and residents said.

The protests in Ibadan, 130 km (80 miles) north of Lagos, were the latest in Africa's most populous nation over the central bank's push to replace old naira notes with redesigned new ones.

Banks have limited access to cash and ATM withdrawals because of a scarcity of new notes, and some businesses refuse to accept old naira, causing huge lines, angering customers and disrupting businesses.

Africa, war: feb16 The chief of the UN’s International Organization for Migration says the number of women and children migrating from the Horn of Africa to the Gulf states has significantly increased.

The number of women and children migrating from the Horn of Africa to Gulf countries through Yemen has significantly increased and is a cause for concern, according to the head of the International Organization for Migration (IOM), an agency of the United Nations (UN).

The treacherous journey from Ethiopia, Somalia and Djibouti through Yemen, called the Eastern Migration Route, has seen a 64 percent increase in the past year, with people seeking better livelihoods and with larger numbers of women and children travelling alone, IOM Director General Antonio Vitorino told The Associated Press.

https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2023/2/15/rise-in-horn-of-africa-migrants-a-worry-says-un-official

Government, censorship, war: india bans new bbc documentary feb16

The programme drew an immediate backlash from India’s government, which invoked emergency powers under its information technology laws to block it from being shown in the country.

Local authorities scrambled to stop screenings organised at some Indian universities, and social media platforms, including Twitter and YouTube, complied with government requests to remove links to the documentary.

The BBC said at the time that the documentary was “rigorously researched” and involved a wide range of voices and opinions.

“We offered the Indian Government a right to reply to the matters raised in the series – it declined to respond,” its statement said.

India’s foreign ministry called the documentary a “propaganda piece designed to push a particularly discredited narrative” that lacked objectivity.

War: China Calls on Japan, South Korea to Shun 'Spy Balloon' Rumors and 'Stop Following the US'

Censorship, government, stats: feb16 Study shows ‘striking’ number who believe news misinforms

NEW YORK (AP) — Half of Americans in a recent survey indicated they believe national news organizations intend to mislead, misinform or persuade the public to adopt a particular point of view through their reporting.

The survey, released Wednesday by Gallup and the Knight Foundation, goes beyond others that have shown a low level of trust in the media to the startling point where many believe there is an intent to deceive.

Asked whether they agreed with the statement that national news organizations do not intend to mislead, 50% said they disagreed. Only 25% agreed, the study found.

Similarly, 52% disagreed with a statement that disseminators of national news “care about the best interests of their readers, viewers and listeners,” the study found. It said 23% of respondents believed the journalists were acting in the public’s best interests.

“That was pretty striking for us,” said Sarah Fioroni, a consultant for Gallup. The findings showed a depth of distrust and bad feeling that go beyond the foundations and processes of journalism, she said.

War, Russia: feb16 Montenegro's Boxers Barred From Moldova Tournament Amid Kremlin Coup Allegations

War: Babcock Wins $480 Million Bid to Run Britain's Skynet SATCOM Program

War, Russia: feb16 Russian Strategic Bomber Engineer Requests Asylum in US, Offers to Share Info

Russian strategic bomber engineer requests asylum in US and offers to share information on Tupolev Tu-160 Blackjack

By **Dario Leone**
Feb 15 2023
SHARE THIS ARTICLE

A Russian aerospace engineer approached the US authorities seeking asylum and offering to share information on Russia's Tu-160 strategic bomber program.

Yahoo News reports that a Russian aerospace engineer approached the US authorities seeking asylum and offering to share information on Russia's Tu-160 strategic bomber program.

He and his family entered the US from Mexico in late December 2022.

According to Alert 5, if genuine, the offer, could provide an insight into Russia's most advanced strategic bomber, an aircraft that has been used in the Ukrainian conflict.

According to an unclassified Customs and Border Protection (CBP) report the engineer said he has detailed knowledge about

the Tupolev Tu-160 (NATO reporting name: Blackjack) and claimed to have worked at the Tupolev aircraft production facility in Kazan, Russia from 2018 to 2021.

War, Russia: feb16 Russia Donates 25,000 Tonnes of Wheat to Ally Cuba as Ties Deepen

War, stats: timeline provided on usatoday of russian invasion so far

"The enemy's offensive continues in the east, (with) round-the-clock attacks," said deputy defence minister Hanna Malyar. "The situation is tense. Yes, it is difficult for us.

"But our fighters are not allowing the enemy to achieve their goals and are inflicting very serious losses," she wrote on the Telegram messaging app.

Luhansk regional governor Serhiy Haidai earlier said Russia was pouring in heavy equipment and had mobilised troops but denied reports that Ukrainian forces were engaged in a major retreat.

https://www.usnews.com/news/world/articles/2023-02-15/ukraine-defends-luhansk-region-as-russia-brings-in-troops-governor

War: Kyiv Says It Shot Down Russian Balloons Over Ukraine's Capital

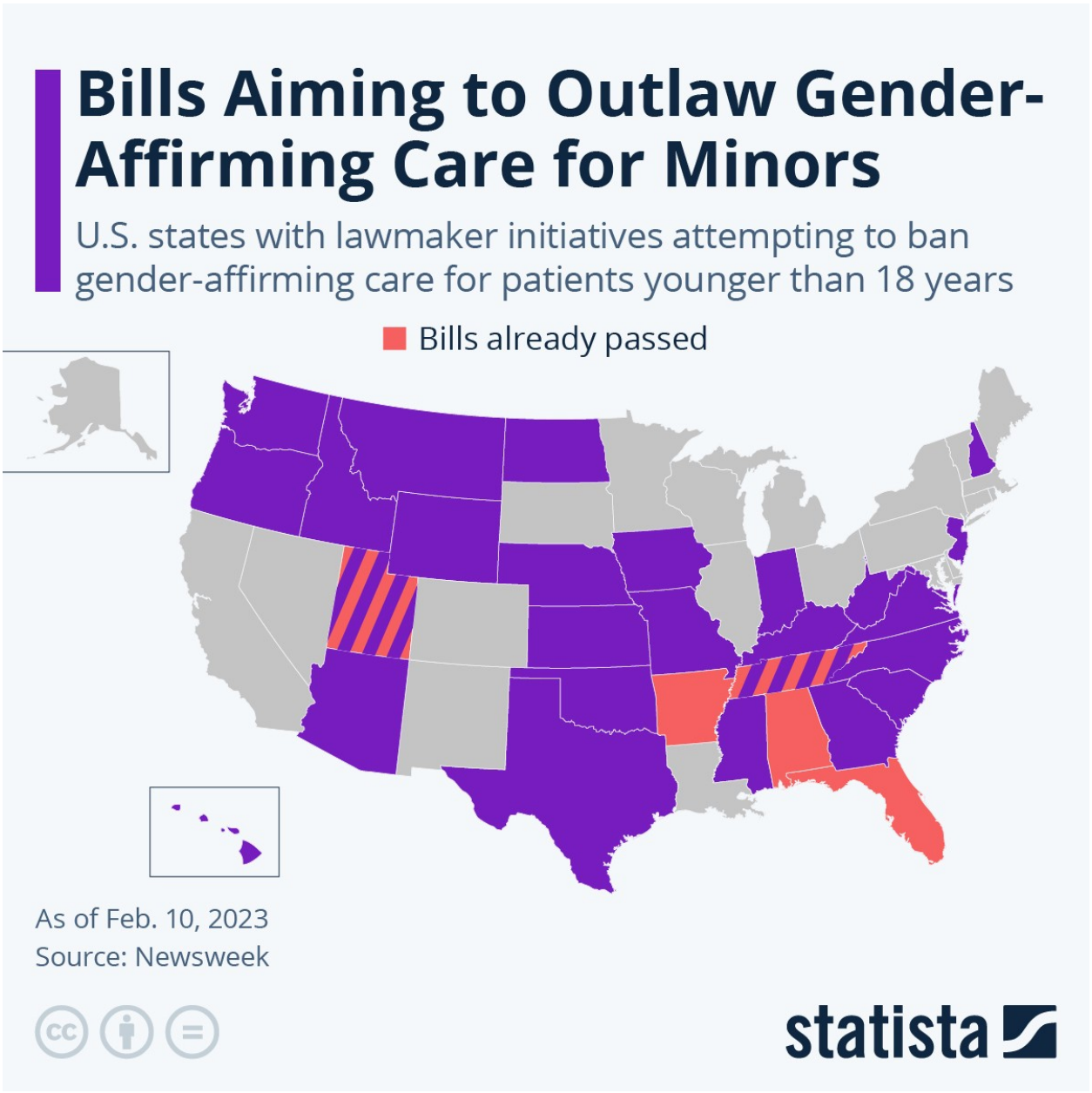
War, sanctions, Erdogan: feb16 NATO Chief Heads to Ankara as Turkey Holds Up Nordics' Membership

Government, energy: feb16 Asia To Use Half Of World's Electricity By 2025

Stats, government: feb16 All The States With Bills Aiming To Outlaw Gender-Reaffirming Care For Minors

In a majority of U.S. states there are now state lawmaker initiatives to ban gender-reaffirming health care for those under the age of 18.

Newsweek reported last week that a Georgia bill introduced Thursday was the **26th in the country that aims to outlaw doctors treating trans or nonbinary minors** with procedures like hormone therapy or surgery.


Bills Aiming to Outlaw Gender-Affirming Care for Minors
U.S. states with lawmaker initiatives attempting to ban gender-affirming care for patients younger than 18 years
Bills already passed
As of Feb. 10, 2023
Source: Newsweek
statista

You will find more infographics at Statista

As Statista's Katharina Buchholz notes, according to the report, most states introduced one or two bills, while efforts were much more focused in Texas, Missouri, Oklahoma, where upwards of ten bills each were introduced. **Arkansas, Tennessee, Florida and Alabama have already blocked gender.reaffirming or transition-related care for those 18 years or younger.** In Utah, a similar initiative has already passed while more bills are in the works.

While trans persons transition medically at many different ages, there are many that chose to live as a sex different from the one assigned at birth even as children. For this group, transitioning during their teenage years and taking

puberty blockers is an often-pursued approach. The bills in questions would delay a medical transition procedure until after puberty.

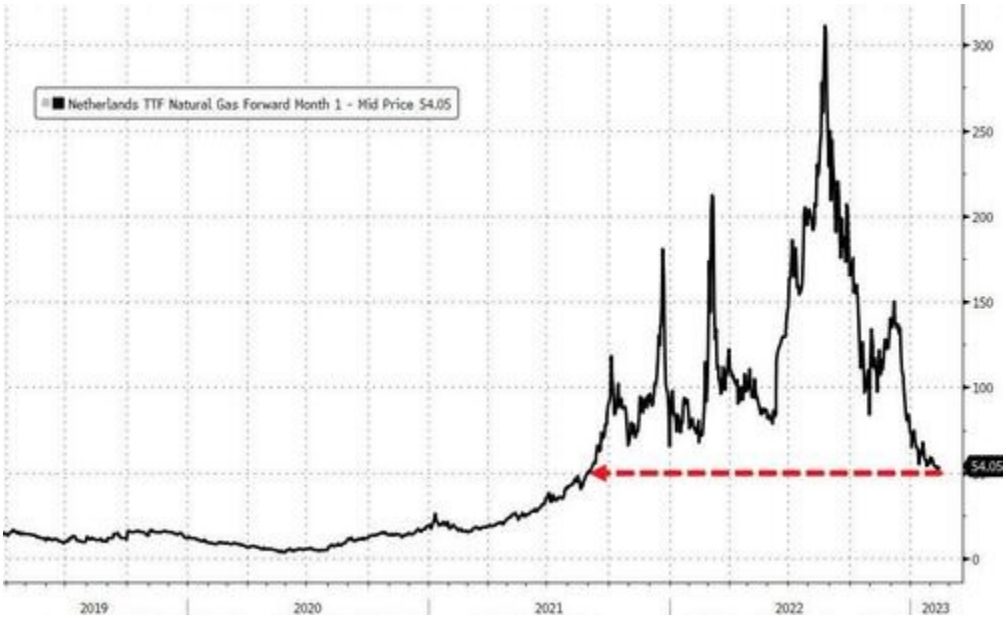
Government, war: feb16 AfD Joins Call For Germany To Reinstate Compulsory Military Service

Government, energy: EU Eyes 90% CO2 Cut By 2040 For Trucks

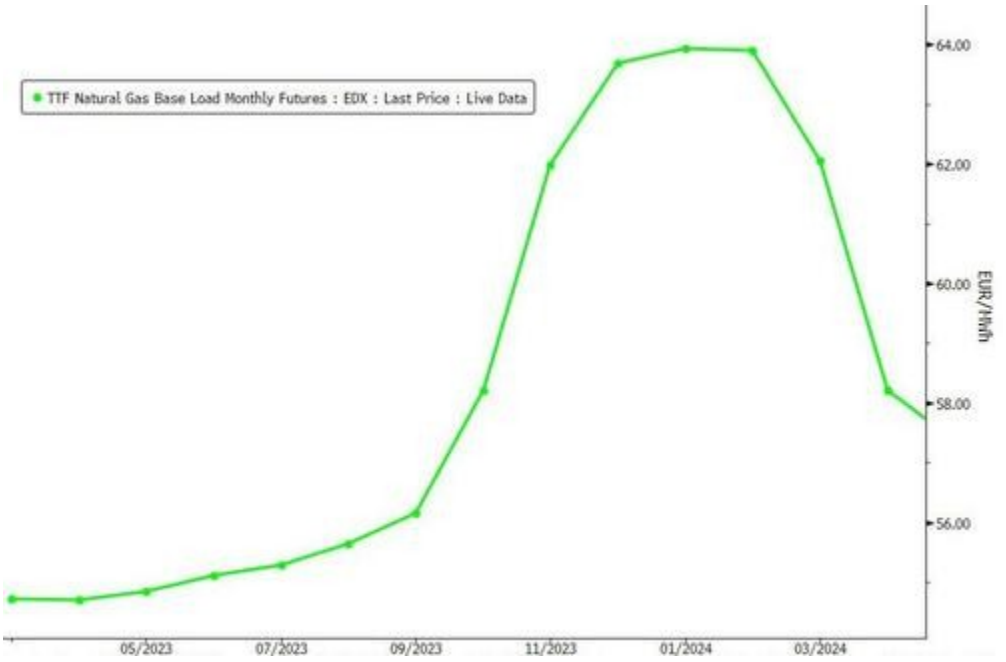
War: feb16 South Africa To Host 'Strange' Naval Drills With Warships From China, Russia

Natural Gas Futures Contracts Suggest Europe's Energy Crisis Isn't Over; race to ensure supply for next winter hasn’t even started in earnest yet.

The TTF price, Europe’s benchmark, slipped on Monday to the lowest level since September 2021, and Europe looks confident that there will not be gas shortages this winter.



However, the race to ensure supply for next winter hasn't even started in earnest yet. Prices are set to hold higher than before the Russian invasion of Ukraine through the summer as Europe will face stiffer competition from Asia for liquefied natural gas (LNG) supply. TTF futures for December are priced above €60 per megawatt-hour, notably higher than the €54 per megawatt-hour for March.



ttf looks like its at a pivot point, too....broken so many now. Risk reward off the charts

Energy, government: feb16 Barclays Vows To Stop Financing Oil Sands Projects

Barclays on Wednesday said it would **no longer provide financing to oil sands companies or oil sands projects and tightened conditions for thermal coal lending** in an updated policy, which fell short of announcing overall pledges or targets in funding oil and gas.

In the annual report for 2022 published today, the UK-based banking giant vowed not to provide financing for any oil sands projects, compared to a previous policy which stated that it would only provide financing to oil sands exploration and production clients that had projects to materially reduce their overall emissions intensity.

In coal lending, Barclays now aims to phase out financing to clients engaged in coal-fired power generation in the EU and OECD by 2030, compared to phasing out such lending only to clients in the UK and the EU in the previously announced policy.

Commenting on Barclays' new targets, Jeanne Martin, Head of Banking Programme at ShareAction, said in a statement, ***"Disappointingly, despite not having published a new oil and gas policy for the last three years, the bank's fracking policy remains unchanged and there is no mention of new oil and gas. This means Barclays continues to be out of step with current minimum standards of ambition within the industry."***

Pressured by ESG trends and shareholders, other banks have already started to announce cuts to lending to the oil and gas industry.

At the end of last year, two prominent banks in Europe vowed to significantly cut exposure to the fossil fuels sector. Credit Agricole, the largest retail lender in France, said in early December that it targets to have no new financing granted for oil extraction projects by 2025, and to cut its oil exploration and production exposure by 25% by 2025 compared to 2020.

Banking giant HSBC announced in December that it would stop funding new oil and gas field developments and related infrastructure as part of a policy to support and finance a net-zero transition.

Following HSBC's pledge, the pressure is now on U.S. banks to halt funding for new oil and gas projects, RAN and other climate community groups said.

U.S. banks are the biggest funders of fossil fuel projects in the world and **"are still refusing to make real commitments on climate,"** the environmental groups added.

Rome, history, church: Overthrow of the Roman monarchy: The simplest way for the Romans to have known how long their republic had existed would have been to look at the list of consuls, of which two were elected every year, and simply count the number of consular pairs to impute that the republic had existed for however many years corresponded. The fasti Capitolini – relying on the Varronian chronology – go back to 509 BC; mapp of rome 500 bc

Lucius Junius Brutus

37 languages

- Article
- Talk
- Read
- Edit
- View history

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Lucius Junius Brutus

Portrait of Lucius Junius Brutus on a denarius minted by Marcus Junius Brutus in 54 BC[1]

Died	c. 509 BC Silva Arsia, Rome
Nationality	Roman
Known for	Foundation of the Roman Republic
Office	Consul (509 BC)
Spouse	Vitellia
Children	Titus and Tiberius

Lucius Junius Brutus (fl. 6th century BC) was the semi-legendary founder of the Roman Republic, and traditionally one of its first consuls in 509 BC. He was reputedly responsible for the expulsion of his uncle the Roman king Tarquinius Superbus after the suicide of Lucretia, which led to the overthrow of the Roman monarchy. He was involved in the abdication of fellow consul Tarquinius Collatinus, and executed two of his sons for plotting the restoration of the Tarquins.[2]

He was claimed as an ancestor of the Roman gens Junia, including Decimus Junius Brutus, and Marcus Junius Brutus, the most famous of Julius Caesar's assassins. Traditions about his life may have been fictional, and some scholars argue that it was the Etruscan king Porsenna who overthrew Tarquinius. The plebeian status of the *Junia gens* has also raised doubts about his position as a consul and the alleged initial patrician domination of the office. Depicted as the nephew of Tarquinius, he may have symbolized the internal tensions that occurred during the transition between the monarchy and the republic.[2]

Background and historicity[edit]

Prior to the establishment of the Roman Republic, Rome had been ruled by kings.

The account is from Livy's *Ab urbe condita* and deals with a point in the history of Rome prior to reliable historical records (virtually all prior records were destroyed by the Gauls when they sacked Rome under Brennus in 390 BC or 387 BC).

Modern historians have challenged almost every part of the traditional story from Livy:

Some of the leading *dramatis personae* – Lucretia, Brutus, Valerius Publicola, even Lars Porsenna – have been dismissed as figments of pure legend. The chronology has been challenged, with many scholars rejecting the traditional sixth-century date in favour of a later one - around 470 BC, or even after 450. Others have suggested that the transition

from monarchy to republic was not a sudden revolution, but rather a gradual process lasting many years, perhaps even centuries... before the consular system of the classical Republic was at last established. Finally, it is widely supposed in modern books that the end of the Roman monarchy marked the end of a period of Etruscan rule in Rome, and the liberation of the city from a period of foreign occupation. In its strongest form this theory maintains that the fall of Tarquin was only a minor symptom of a much wider phenomenon, namely the decline of Etruscan power and the fall of an Etruscan empire in central Italy.[3]

Main article: Overthrow of the Roman monarchy

According to Roman tradition, Brutus led the revolt that overthrew the last king, Lucius Tarquinius Superbus.[4] The coup was prompted by the rape of the noblewoman Lucretia by the second son of the king, Sextus Tarquinius; Brutus was joined in this plotting by among others, Lucretia's father, Spurius Lucretius Tricipitinus and Publius Valerius Poplicola.[5]

Brutus was the son of Tarquinia, daughter of Rome's fifth king Lucius Tarquinius Priscus and sister to Rome's seventh king Tarquinius Superbus.[6]

Rome, stats, history, church: feb16 so appartently not much is known about rome's origins or early history when it was a kingdom ruled by a monarch.

Traditional account[edit]

The Capitoline Brutus, an ancient Roman bust in the Capitoline Museums, is traditionally identified as a portrait of Lucius Junius Brutus.

See also: Roman Kingdom, Lucius Tarquinius Superbus, and Lucius Junius Brutus

Roman tradition held that there were seven kings of Rome who reigned from the city's founding (traditionally dated to 753 BC)[2] by Romulus up to the reign of Tarquin. Archaeological evidence indicates there were kings in Rome;[12] but many modern scholars doubt the traditional narrative and believe its characters and details to be largely the product of later literary invention.[13]

Account[edit]

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The Gauls destroyed many of Rome's historical records when they sacked the city after the Battle of the Allia in 390 BC (according to Varro; according to Polybius, the battle occurred in 387–6), and what remained eventually fell prey to time or to theft. With no contemporary records of the kingdom surviving, all accounts of the Roman kings must be carefully questioned.[2][3]

According to legend, Romulus established the Senate after he founded Rome by personally selecting the most noble men (wealthy men with legitimate wives and children) to serve as a council for the city. As such, the Senate was the King's advisory council as the Council of State. The Senate was composed of 300 senators, with 100 senators representing each of the three ancient tribes of Rome: the Ramnes (Latins),

Tities (Sabines), and Luceres (Etruscans). Within each tribe, a senator was selected from each of the tribe's ten curiae. The king had the sole authority to appoint the senators, but this selection was done in accordance with ancient custom.

Under the monarchy, the Senate possessed very little power and authority as the king held most of the political power of the state and could exercise those powers without the Senate's consent. The chief function of the Senate was to serve as the king's council and be his legislative coordinator. Once legislation proposed by the king passed the Curiate Assembly, the Senate could either veto it or accept it as law. The king was, by custom, to seek the advice of the Senate on major issues. However, it was left to him to decide what issues, if any, were brought before them and he was free to accept or reject their advice as he saw fit. Only the king possessed the power to convene the Senate, except during the interregnum, during which the Senate possessed the authority to convene itself.

According to the traditional account, a group of aristocrats overthrow the last king, Lucius Tarquinius Superbus, in response to the rape of the noblewoman Lucretia by the king's second son, Sextus Tarquinius; after revealing the rape to some noblemen, Lucretia commits suicide.[14][15] The resulting outrage leads to an uprising against the ruling family, led by some of the king's relatives: Lucius Junius Brutus (the king's nephew), Lucius Tarquinius Collatinus (the king's cousin and Lucretia's husband), and Spurius Lucretius Tricipitinus (Lucretia's father). They are also joined by an influential friend Publius Valerius Poplicola.[14]

During this time, Tarquin was conducting a war against Ardea, but rushes back to Rome on news of the coup; however, the city is shut before him and the coup leaders convince the army at Ardea to join them, leading to the expulsion of the king's sons.[14] Brutus and Collatinus then become the first consuls,[16] with Brutus administering an oath before the people to never again tolerate a king in Rome and to kill anyone who attempts to restore the monarchy; among Brutus' reforms, he proposes the banishment of all members of the Tarquin clan, leading also to the banishment of his co-consul Collatinus, who is replaced in office by Poplicola.[14][17] Note, however, that the Romans, also report that in this early period, the consuls were initially called *praetores* (deriving from "leader").[18][19]

Soon after, Brutus' two sons, brothers of Brutus' wife, the Vitellii, the Aquilii, and relatives of Collatinus are discovered plotting to restore the monarchy.[20] After the conspiracy is exposed by a slave, Brutus orders the death of his own sons and relatives. Meanwhile, Tarquin flees to Etruria and persuades various cities there to attack Rome and restore him to the throne. They are unsuccessful and defeated at the Battle of Silva Arsia, where Brutus falls in battle; Poplicola then returns to celebrate a triumph for victory over the Etruscans.[21][22] Tarquin then requests aid from Lars Porsenna, the king of Clusium, who marches on Rome but is stopped by Horatius Cocles who defends a bridge alone against Porsenna's forces until it can be demolished.[23] The heroism of the republic's youths and Rome's force of arms persuade Porsenna to give up his campaign.[21][24]

Tarquin then appeals to his son-in-law, Octavius Mamilius of Tusculum, who mobilises the Latin League against Rome, until they too are defeated at the Battle of Lake Regillus (with the Romans receiving divine assistance from Castor and Pollux).[25] With no more allies willing to attack the Romans, Tarquin leaves for a more permanent exile in Cumae before dying in 495 BC.[21][26] The Roman government then falls into the hands of a group of aristocratic families, the patricians, who then elect magistrates from among their number, setting up conditions for the so-called Conflict of the Orders.[27]

Development[edit]

See also: Ab Urbe Condita Libri § Historicity, Fasti, and Fasti Capitolini § Historical accuracy

The traditional account likely derived from an earlier oral tradition.[28] Barthold Georg Niebuhr, in the early nineteenth century, posited that the oral tradition may have been transmitted by poems sung or recited by bards at banquets during the republic. While this "ballad theory" has "generally been dismissed by modern scholars",[29] T. P. Wiseman has more recently argued that the stories were transmitted by means of public performance of plays dramatising historical events. Such plays would be especially important in a society with low literacy, and are perhaps supported by archaeological evidence suggesting circulation of Greek myths and stories in Italy as far back as the archaic period.[30] Attilio Mastrocinque, in *A companion to Livy*, for example, identifies Lucius Accius's tragedy *Brutus* as a source for some of the stories transmitted via Livy.[31]

The sources we have today for the monarchy and the earliest parts of the republic are "notorious[ly] unreliable" literary sources:[32] Livy, Dionysius of Halicarnassus, along with some supporting work from Plutarch's *Life of Poplicola*.[22] The first literary history in Rome was written by Quintus Fabius Pictor[33] c. 200 BC,[34] centuries after the actual fall of the monarchy. These early historians read the fragmentary evidence from early Rome "so that it read like a history of their own times" and the surviving accounts of Livy and others are based on these writers rather than the original evidence.[32] Thus:[32]

Most scholars now agree that as a result of this process the details of Livy's political and military narrative are unreliable, amounting to reconstruction or plausible invention by Livy himself or by his sources.[32]

Similarly,[35]

Few can now doubt that earlier times tended, both consciously and unconsciously, to be re-created by a succession of Roman writers in light of the conditions in the third and second century. This was true even before [133 BC and] a new political climate in which historians had more urgent motives to project the [contemporaneous] political concerns and conflicts [on] earlier Roman history.[35]

The stories that *were* written down by the time of the second century BC were done so by a time the Romans had lost any reliable sources on the fall of the monarchy; the purpose of that history as well was not to record the past in its terms, but for senators to describe and celebrate the republic as it existed in their time.[36] Senatorial historiography served to advertise and embellish writers' families rather than describe political or social contexts already lost from memory.[37] For example, T. P. Wiseman argues that many of the kings themselves and figures from the traditional story were ahistorical inventions of the fourth and third centuries BC.[38] Wiseman and the more critical historians similarly dismiss even the earliest Roman historians, such as Fabius Pictor, as having had little knowledge of their own past beyond the fourth century BC.[39] Other scholars go further, such as James Richardson, who believes that one of the central figures of the traditional story, Lucius Junius Brutus, "never existed".[40]

Under the monarchy, the Senate possessed very little power and authority as the king held most of the political power of the state and could exercise those powers without

the Senate's consent. The chief function of the Senate was to serve as the king's council and be his legislative coordinator. Once legislation proposed by the king passed the Curiate Assembly, the Senate could either veto it or accept it as law. The king was, by custom, to seek the advice of the Senate on major issues. However, it was left to him to decide what issues, if any, were brought before them and he was free to accept or reject their advice as he saw fit. Only the king possessed the power to convene the Senate, except during the interregnum, during which the Senate possessed the authority to convene itself.

Military[edit]

Main article: Military establishment of the Roman kingdom

Kings of Rome[edit]

Years BC

Dates follow Livy's chronology of reign-lengths. Consult particular article for details of each king.

Year	King	Other notable information
753–716 BC	Romulus	Myth of Romulus and Remus; founder of Rome; established Roman Senate, army, first religious institutions.
715–672 BC	Numa Pompilius	Established many of Rome's most important religious and political institutions; introduced twelve-month solar calendar.
672–640 BC	Tullus Hostilius	Defeated and destroyed Alba Longa; integrated the noble Alban families into the Roman aristocracy.
640–616 BC	Ancus Marcius	Established port of Ostia; defeated the Sabines.
616–578 BC	Tarquinius Priscus	Expanded Roman hegemony over Latium; doubled membership in the Senate to 600; drained the Roman Forum, and constructed the Cloaca Maxima and the Circus Maximus.
578–534 BC	Servius Tullius	Established the Servian Tribes and the centuries; built the Temple of Diana and a new wall around the city; instituted the Compitalia.
534–509 BC	Tarquinius Superbus	Last King of Rome; overthrew Servius; conquered various Latin cities and established colonies; built the Temple of Jupiter Optimus Maximus; deposed and Roman Republic established.

Romulus was behind one of the most notorious acts in Roman history, the incident commonly known as the rape of the Sabine women. To provide his citizens with wives, Romulus invited the neighbouring tribes to a festival in Rome where the Romans

committed a mass abduction of young women from among the attendees. The account vary from 30 to 683 women taken, a significant number for a population of 3,000 Latins (and presumably for the Sabines as well). War broke out when Romulus refused to return the captives. After the Sabines made three unsuccessful attempts to invade the hill settlements of Rome, the women themselves intervened during the Battle of the Lacus Curtius to end the war. The two peoples were united in a joint kingdom, with Romulus and the Sabine king Titus Tatius sharing the throne.[12][13][14] In addition to the war with the Sabines, Romulus waged war with the Fidenates and Veientes and others.[15]

Rome, stats, history, censorship, church: Rape of the Sabine Women by Pietro da Cortona, 1627–1629

Story[edit]

Rape of the Sabine Women by Pietro da Cortona, 1627–1629

According to Roman historian Livy, the abduction of Sabine women occurred in the early history of Rome shortly after its founding in the mid-8th century BC and was perpetrated by Romulus and his predominantly male followers; it is said that after the foundation of the city, the population consisted solely of Latins and other Italic people, in particular male bandits.[3] With Rome growing at such a steady rate in comparison to its neighbors, Romulus became concerned with maintaining the city's strength. His main concern was that with few women inhabitants there would be no chance of sustaining the city's population, without which Rome might not last longer than a generation.

On the advice of the Senate, the Romans then set out into the surrounding regions in search of wives to establish families with. The Romans negotiated unsuccessfully with all the peoples that they appealed to, including the Sabines, who populated the

neighboring areas. The Sabines feared the emergence of a rival society and refused to allow their women to marry the Romans. Consequently, the Romans devised a plan to abduct the Sabine women during the festival of Neptune Equester. They planned and announced a festival of games to attract people from all the nearby towns. According to Livy, many people from Rome's neighboring towns – including Caeninenses, Crustumini, and Antemnates – attended the festival along with the Sabines, eager to see the newly established city for themselves. At the festival, Romulus gave a signal by "rising and folding his cloak and then throwing it round him again," at which the Romans grabbed the Sabine women and fought off the Sabine men.[4] Livy does not report how many women were abducted by the Romans at the festival, he only notes that it was undoubtedly many more than thirty.[5] All of the women abducted at the festival were said to have been virgins except for one married woman, Hersilia, who became Romulus' wife and would later be the one to intervene and stop the ensuing war between the Romans and the Sabines.[6] The indignant abductees were soon implored by Romulus to accept the Roman men as their new husbands.[7]

War with Sabines and other tribes[edit]

Jacques Stella, *The Rape of the Sabines*, mid-17th century, Princeton University Art Museum

Abduction of a Sabine Woman by Giambologna, Loggia dei Lanzi, Florence

Outraged at what had happened, the king of the Caeninenses entered upon Roman territory with his army. Romulus and the Romans met the Caeninenses in battle, killed their king, and routed their army. Romulus later attacked Caenina and took it upon the first assault. Returning to Rome, he dedicated a temple to Jupiter Feretrius (according to Livy, the first temple dedicated in Rome) and offered the spoils of the enemy king as *spolia opima*. According to the *Fasti Triumphales*, Romulus celebrated a triumph over the Caeninenses on 1 March 752 BC.[8]

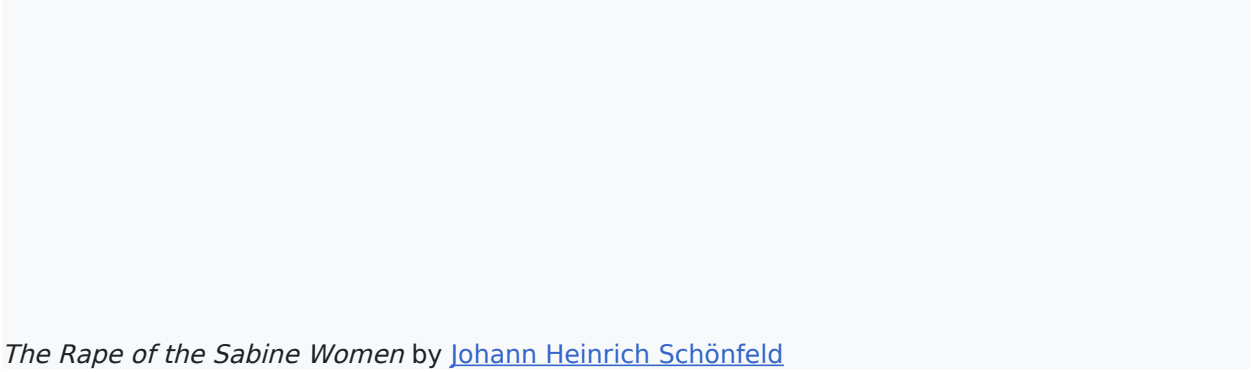
At the same time, the army of the Antemnates invaded Roman territory. The Romans retaliated, and the Antemnates were defeated in battle and their town captured. According to the *Fasti Triumphales*, Romulus celebrated a second triumph in 752 BC over the Antemnates.

The Crustumini also started a war, but they too were defeated and their town was captured.

Roman colonists were subsequently sent to Antemnae and Crustumerium by Romulus, and many citizens of those towns also migrated to Rome (particularly the families of the captured women).

The Sabines themselves finally declared war, led into battle by their king, Titus Tatius. Tatius almost succeeded in capturing Rome, thanks to the treason of Tarpeia, daughter of Spurius Tarpeius, Roman governor of the citadel on the Capitoline Hill. She opened the city gates for the Sabines in return for "what they bore on their arms", thinking she would receive their golden bracelets. Instead, the Sabines crushed her to death with their shields, and her body was buried on or thrown from a rock known ever since by her name, the Tarpeian Rock.

The Romans attacked the Sabines who now held the citadel, in what would become known as the Battle of the Lacus Curtius. The Roman advance was led by Hostus Hostilius, the Sabine defence by Mettus Curtius. Hostus fell in battle, and the Roman line gave way. The Romans retreated to the gate of the Palatium. Romulus rallied his men, promising to build a temple to the Roman God Jove on the site. He then led them back into battle. Mettus Curtius was unhorsed and fled on foot, and the Romans appeared to be winning.



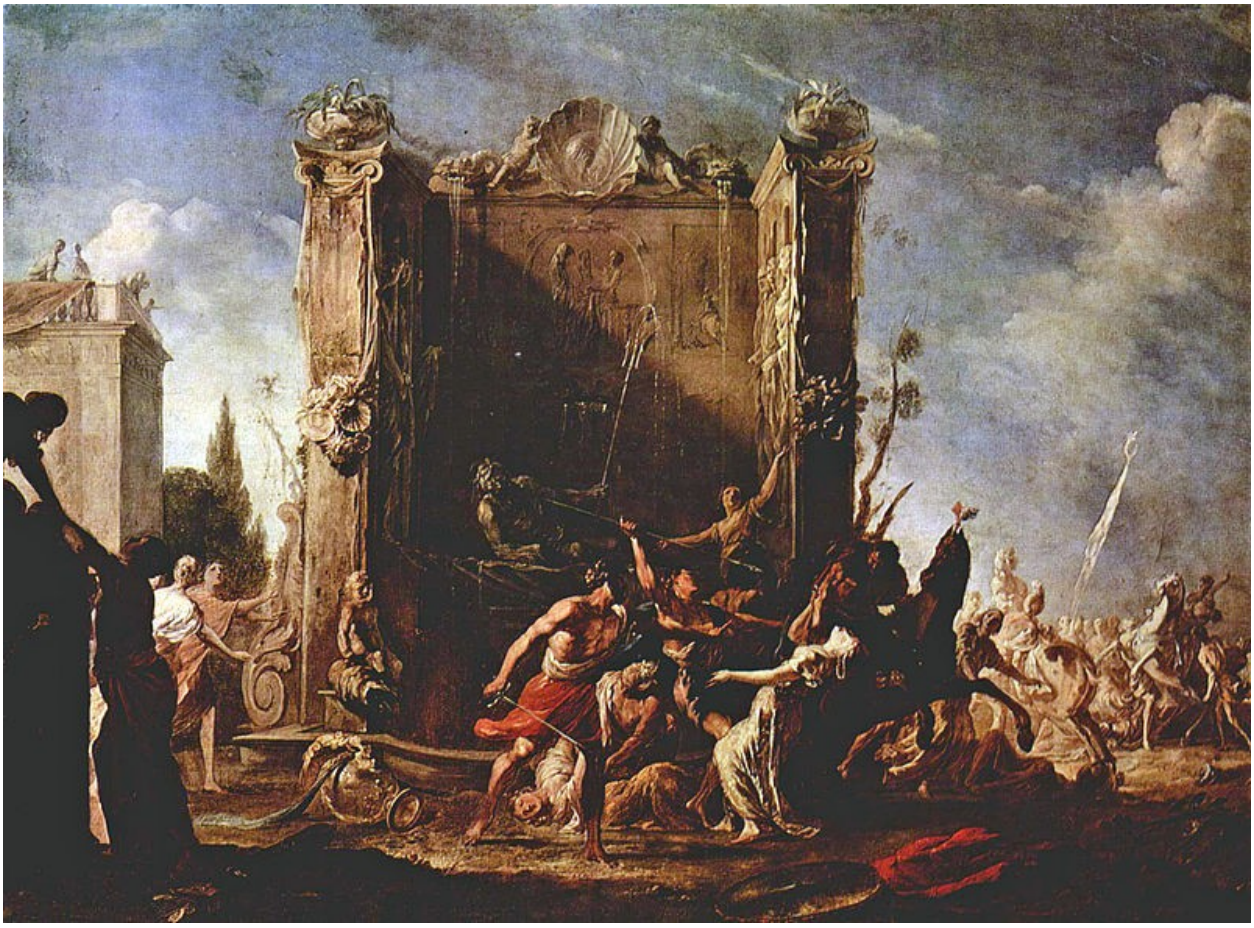
The Rape of the Sabine Women by Johann Heinrich Schönfeld

At this point in the story, the Sabine women intervened:

[They], from the outrage on whom the war originated, with hair dishevelled and garments rent, the timidity of their sex being overcome by such dreadful scenes, had the courage to throw themselves amid the flying weapons, and making a rush across, to part the incensed armies, and assuage their fury; imploring their fathers on the one side, their husbands on the other, "that as fathers-in-law and sons-in-law they would not contaminate each other with impious blood, nor stain their offspring with parricide, the one their grandchildren, the other their children. If you are dissatisfied with the affinity between you, if with our marriages, turn your resentment against us; we are the cause of war, we of wounds and of bloodshed to our husbands and parents. It were better that we perish than live widowed or fatherless without one or other of you."[9]

The battle came to an end, and the Sabines agreed to unite in one nation with the Romans. Titus Tatius jointly ruled with Romulus until Tatius's death five years later.

The new Sabine residents of Rome settled on the Capitoline Hill, which they had captured in the battle.[10]



File:Johann Heinrich Schönfeld 004.jpg

File:Giambologna sabine.jpg

Stats, history: Peter Paul Rubens - Wikipedia

stats, history, rome: Tarpeian Rock

Tarpeian Rock

26 languages

- Article
- Talk
- Read
- Edit
- View history

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

The site of the Tarpeian Rock as it appeared in 2008

A 19th-century etching of the Tarpeian Rock

The **Tarpeian Rock** (/tɑːrˈpiːən/; Latin: *Rupes Tarpeia* or *Saxum Tarpeium*; Italian: *Rupe Tarpea*) is a steep cliff on the south side of the Capitoline Hill, which was used in Ancient Rome as a site of execution. Murderers, traitors, perjurors, and larcenous slaves, if convicted by the *quaestores parricidii*, were flung from the cliff to their deaths.[1] The cliff was about 25 meters (80 ft) high.[2]

History[edit]

According to early Roman histories, when the Sabine ruler Titus Tatius attacked Rome after the Rape of the Sabines (8th century BC), the Vestal Virgin Tarpeia, daughter of Spurius Tarpeius, governor of the citadel on the Capitoline Hill, betrayed the Romans by opening the Porta Pandana gate for Titus Tatius in return for "what the Sabines bore on their arms" (golden bracelets and bejeweled rings). In Book 1 of Livy's *Ab Urbe Condita*, the Sabines "having been accepted into the citadel, [the Sabines] killed her, having been overwhelmed by weapons, and "*scuta congesta*", meaning, "[they] heaped up shields [on her]".[3] The Sabines crushed her to death with their shields, and her body was buried in the rock that now bears her name. Regardless of whether or not Tarpeia was buried in the rock itself, it is significant that the rock was named for her deceit.[4]

About 500 BC, Lucius Tarquinius Superbus, the seventh legendary king of Rome, levelled the top of the rock, removing the shrines built by the Sabines, and built the Temple of Jupiter Capitolinus on the *intermontium*, the area between the two summits of the hill. The rock itself survived the remodelling and was used for executions well into Sulla's time[5] (early 1st century BC). However the execution of Simon bar Giora was as late as the time of Vespasian.

There is a Latin phrase, *Arx tarpeia Capitoli proxima* ('the Tarpeian Rock is close to the Capitol'), a warning that one's fall from grace can come swiftly.

To be hurled off the Tarpeian Rock was, from a certain perspective, a fate worse than mere death, because it carried with it the stigma of shame. The standard method of execution in ancient Rome was by strangulation in the Tullianum. The rock was reserved for the most notorious traitors and as a place of unofficial, extra-legal executions such as the near-execution of then-Senator Gaius Marcius Coriolanus by a mob whipped into frenzy by a tribune of the plebs.[6]

Notable victims[edit]

The torture of Tarpeia. Roman Republican coinage (denarius), 89 BC

Victims of this punishment included:[7]

- Spurius Cassius Vecellinus, 485 BC, for perduellio (i.e. high treason)
- Marcus Manlius Capitolinus, 384 BC, for sedition[8]
- Rebels from Tarentum, 212 BC
- Lucius Cornelius Chrysogonus, 80 BC[citation needed]
- Syllaeus or Syllaios, 6 BC
- Aelius Saturninus, 23 AD
- Sextus Marius, a rich man from Spain with copper and gold mines confiscated by Tiberius and executed in 33 AD after being accused of incest.[9] [10]
- Simon bar Giora, 70 AD

In fiction[edit]

- The Tarpeian Rock is briefly mentioned in Act Three, Scene Three of the Shakespeare tragedy *Coriolanus*. In lines 87–90, Coriolanus warns:

"Let them pronounce the steep Tarpeian death,/

Vagabond exile, flaying, pent to linger/ But with a grain a day; I would not buy/

Their mercy at the price of one fair word."

Rome, history, stats: Romulus was the legendary founder and first king of Rome.

Romulus (/ˈrɒmjələs/) was the legendary founder and first king of Rome. Various traditions attribute the establishment of many of Rome's oldest legal, political, religious, and social institutions to Romulus and his contemporaries. Although many of these traditions incorporate elements of folklore, and it is not clear to what extent a historical

figure underlies the God-like Romulus, the events and institutions ascribed to him were central to the myths surrounding Rome's origins and cultural traditions.

Traditional account[edit]

The myths concerning Romulus involve several distinct episodes and figures, including the miraculous birth and youth of Romulus and his twin brother, Remus; Remus' murder and the founding of Rome; the Rape of the Sabine Women, and the subsequent war with the Sabines; a period of joint rule with Titus Tatius; the establishment of various Roman institutions; the death or apotheosis of Romulus, and the succession of Numa Pompilius.

Romulus and Remus[edit]

Main article: Romulus and Remus

According to Roman polytheism, Romulus and Remus were the sons of Rhea Silvia by the god Mars. Their maternal grandfather was Numitor, the rightful king of Alba Longa, through whom the twins were descended from both the Trojan hero Aeneas, and Latinus, the king of Latium.

Before the twins' birth, Numitor's throne had been usurped by his brother, Amulius, who murdered Numitor's son or sons, and condemned Rhea Silvia to perpetual virginity by consecrating her a Vestal.[i][1][2] When Rhea became pregnant, she asserted that she had been visited by the god Mars. Amulius imprisoned her, and upon the twins' birth, ordered that they be thrown into the Tiber. But as the river had been swollen by rain, the servants tasked with disposing of the infants could not reach its banks, and so exposed the twins beneath a fig tree at the foot of the Palatine Hill.[1][3]

In the traditional account, a she-wolf happened upon the twins, and suckled them until they were found by the king's herdsman, Faustulus, and his wife, Acca Larentia.[ii] The brothers grew to manhood among the shepherds and hill-folk. After becoming involved in a conflict between the followers of Amulius and those of their grandfather Numitor, Faustulus told them of their origin. With the help of their friends, they lured Amulius into an ambush and killed him, restoring their grandfather to the throne.[5][6] The princes then set out to establish a city of their own.

They returned to the hills overlooking the Tiber, the site where they had been exposed as infants. They could not agree on which hill should house the new city. When an omen to resolve the controversy failed to provide a clear indication, the conflict escalated and Romulus or one of his followers killed Remus.[5][7] In a variant of the legend, the augurs favoured Romulus, who proceeded to plough a square furrow around the Palatine Hill to demarcate the walls of the future city. When Remus derisively leapt over the "walls" to show how inadequate they were against invaders, Romulus struck him down in anger. In another variant, Remus was killed during a melée, along with Faustulus.

Establishment of the city[edit]

The founding of Rome was commemorated annually on April 21, with the festival of the Parilia.[iii][iv] Romulus' first act was to fortify the Palatine, in the course of which he made a sacrifice to the gods. He laid out the city's boundaries with a furrow that he ploughed, performed another sacrifice, and with his followers set to work building the city itself.[8][9] Romulus sought the assent of the people to become their king. With Numitor's help, he addressed them and received their approval. Romulus accepted the crown after he sacrificed and prayed to Jupiter, and after receiving favourable omens.[10]

Romulus divided the populace into three tribes, known as the *Ramnes*, *Titienses*, and *Luceres*,[v] for taxation and military purposes. Each tribe was presided over by an official known as a tribune, and was further divided into ten curia, or wards, each presided over by an official known as a *curio*. Romulus also allotted a portion of land to each ward, for the benefit of the people.[11][12] Nothing is known of the manner in which the tribes and curiae were taxed, but for the military levy, each curia was responsible for providing one hundred foot soldiers, a unit known as a *century*,[vi] and ten cavalry. Each Romulean tribe thus provided about one thousand infantry, and one century of cavalry; the three hundred cavalry became known as the Celeres, "the swift", and formed the royal bodyguard.[13][14]

Choosing one hundred men from the leading families, Romulus established the Roman senate. These men he called *patres*, the city fathers; their descendants came to be known as "patricians", forming one of the two major social classes at Rome. The other class, known as the "plebs" or "plebeians", consisted of the servants, freedmen, fugitives who sought asylum at Rome, those captured in war, and others who were granted Roman citizenship over time.[15][16]

To encourage the growth of the city, Romulus outlawed infanticide, and established an asylum for fugitives on the Capitoline Hill. Here freemen and slaves alike could claim protection and seek Roman citizenship.[17][18]

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Romulus

church, fall of rome, history: Theodosius the Great: Roman emperor from 379 to 395. During his reign, he succeeded in a crucial war against the Goths, as well as in two civil wars, and was instrumental in establishing the creed of Nicaea as the orthodox doctrine for Christianity. Theodosius was the last emperor to rule the entire Roman Empire before its administration was permanently split between two separate courts (one western, the other eastern). https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Theodosius_I

Rome, history: julius caesar: The title, in full, of princeps senatus / princeps civitatis ("first amongst the senators" / "first amongst the citizens") was first adopted by Octavian Caesar Augustus (27 BC–AD 14), the first Roman "emperor" who chose, like the assassinated Julius Caesar, not to reintroduce a legal monarchy.
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Principate

Greece, history, rome: ancient greeces arrival to italy, key

Antiquity[edit]

Main article: Colonies in antiquity § Greek colonies

Further information: Greeks in pre-Roman Gaul

According to Strabo's *Geographica*, the colonization of Magna Graecia had already begun by the time of the Trojan War and lasted for several centuries.[6]

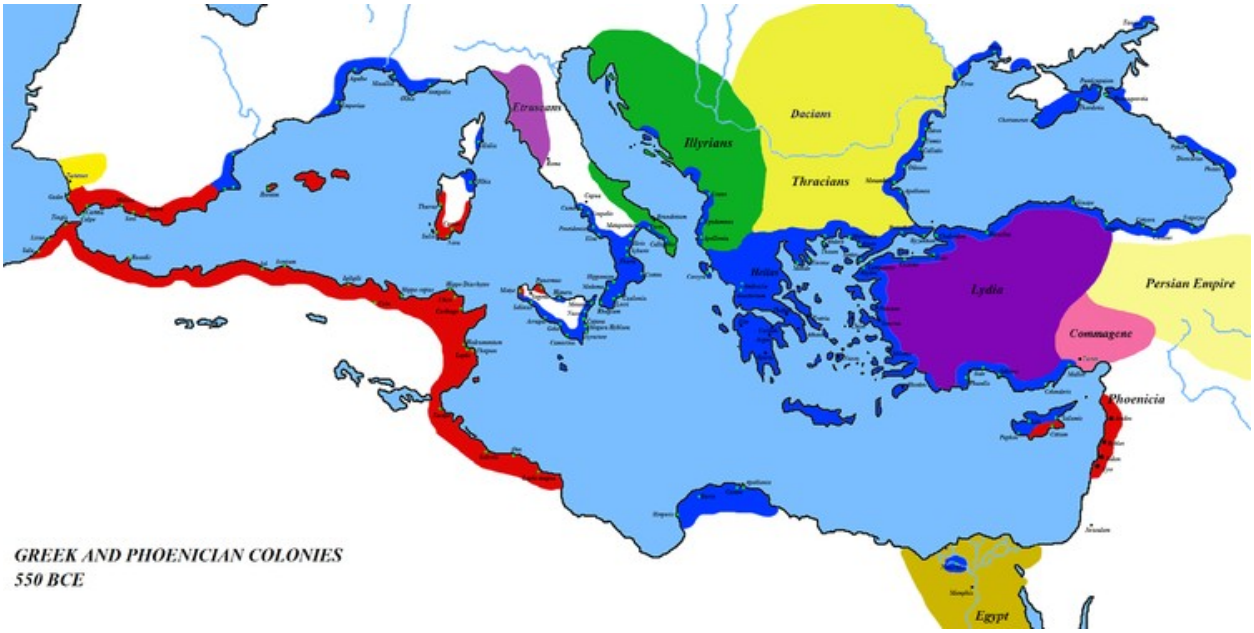
In the 8th and 7th century BC, due to demographic crises (famine, overcrowding, etc.), *stasis*, a developing need for new commercial outlets and ports, and expulsion from their homeland after wars, Greeks began to settle in southern Italy.[5] Colonies began to be established all over the Mediterranean and Black Seas (with the exception of Northwestern Africa, in the sphere of influence of Carthage), including in Sicily and the southern part of the Italian Peninsula. The Romans called this area *Magna Graecia* (Latin for "Greater Greece") since it was so densely inhabited by the Greeks. Ancient geographers differed on whether the term included Sicily or merely Apulia, Campania and Calabria, Strabo and Livy being the most prominent advocates of the wider definitions.[7]

With colonization, Greek culture was exported to Italy in its dialects of the Ancient Greek language, its religious rites and its traditions of the independent *polis*. An original Hellenic civilization soon developed and later interacted with the native Italic civilisations. The most important cultural transplant was the Chalcidean/Cumaean variety of the Greek alphabet, which was adopted by the Etruscans; the Old Italic alphabet subsequently evolved into the Latin alphabet, which became the most widely used alphabet in the world.

Some of these Hellenic colonies still stand today such as Neapolis ("New City", now Naples), Syracuse, Akragas (Agrigento), Taras (Taranto), Rhegion (Reggio Calabria), or Kroton (Crotone).

The first Greek city to be absorbed into the Roman Republic was Neapolis in 327 BC.[8] The other Greek cities in Italy followed during the Samnite Wars and the Pyrrhic War; Taras was the last to fall in 272. Sicily was conquered by Rome during the First Punic War. Only Syracuse remained independent until 212 because its king Hiero II was a devoted ally of the Romans. His grandson Hieronymus however made an alliance with Hannibal, which prompted the Romans to besiege the city, which fell in 212 despite the machines of Archimedes, described by Proclus in his commentary on Euclid's Elements. Archimedes constructed weapons powered by compressed air, weights and counterweights, according to Ctesibius and Hero.[9]

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Magna_Graecia



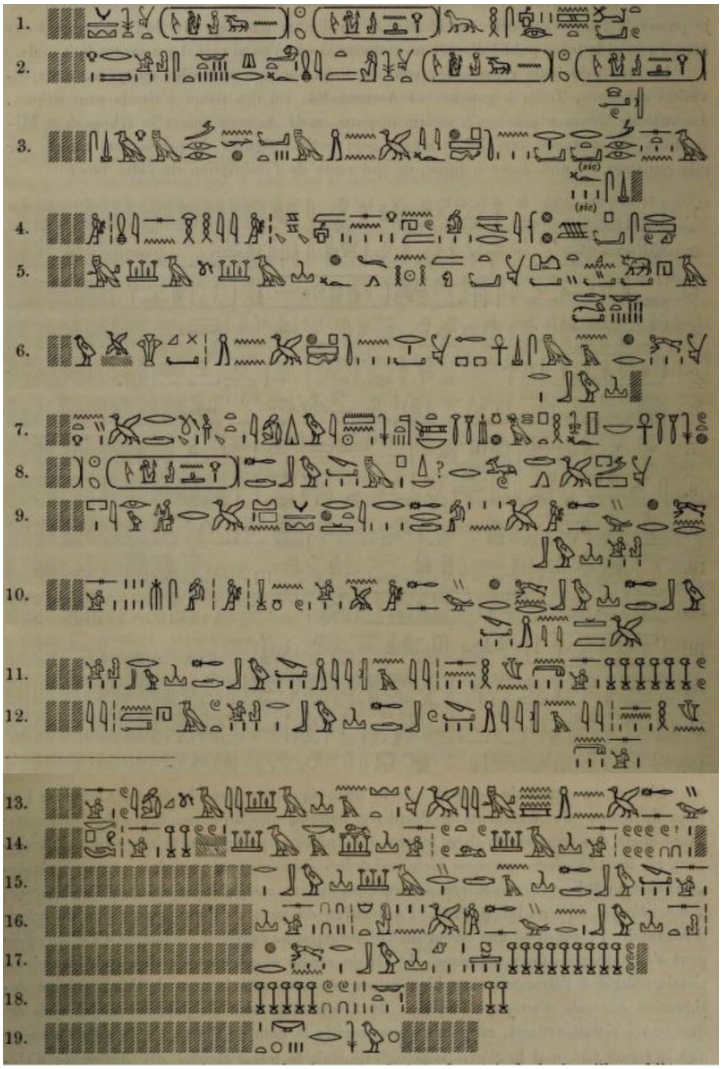
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Greek_colonisation

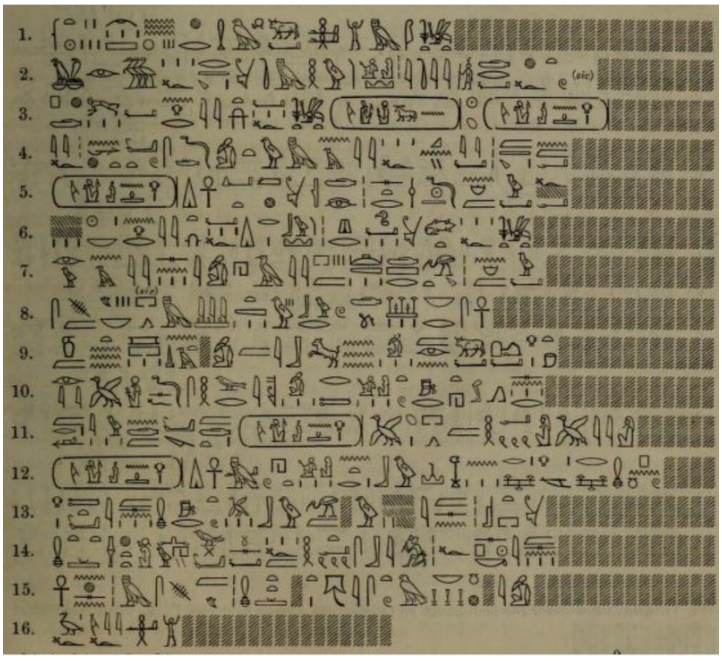
Fall of rome, history: Europe and the Mediterranean Basin at the fall of the Western Roman Empire in 476

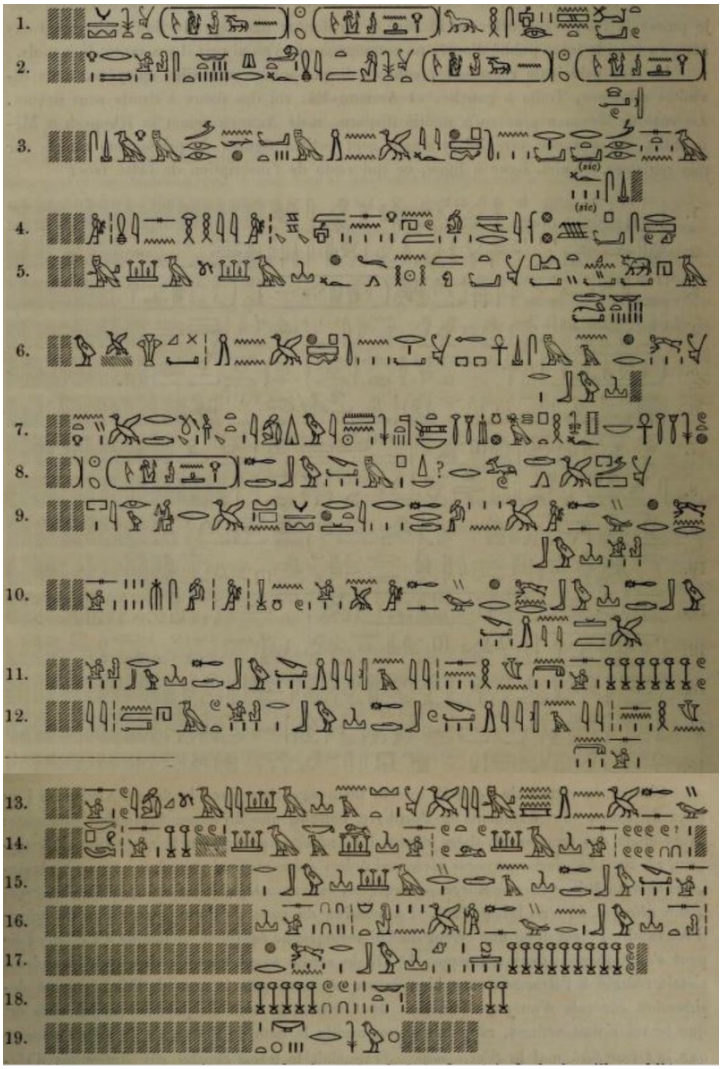
Political division in Europe, North Africa and Near East after the end of the Western Roman Empire in 476 AD.

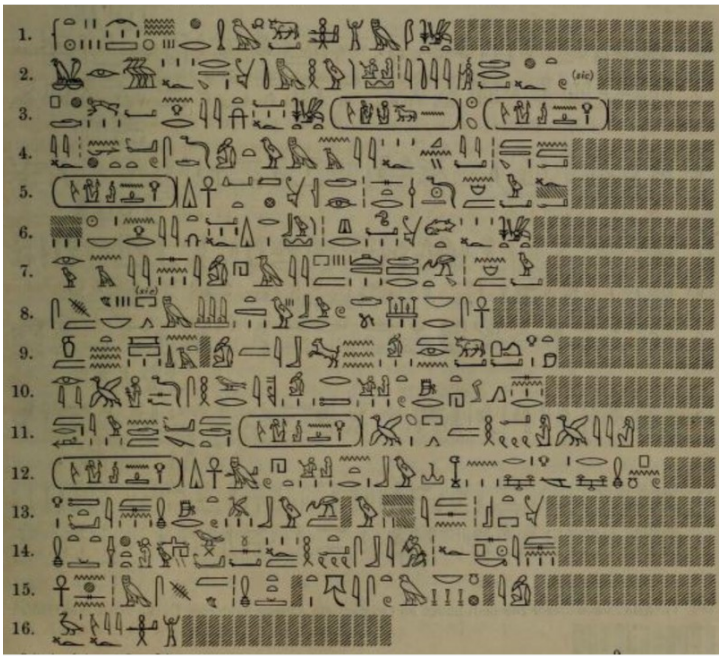
readlater, history, Greece: the "sea peoples" of the bronze age

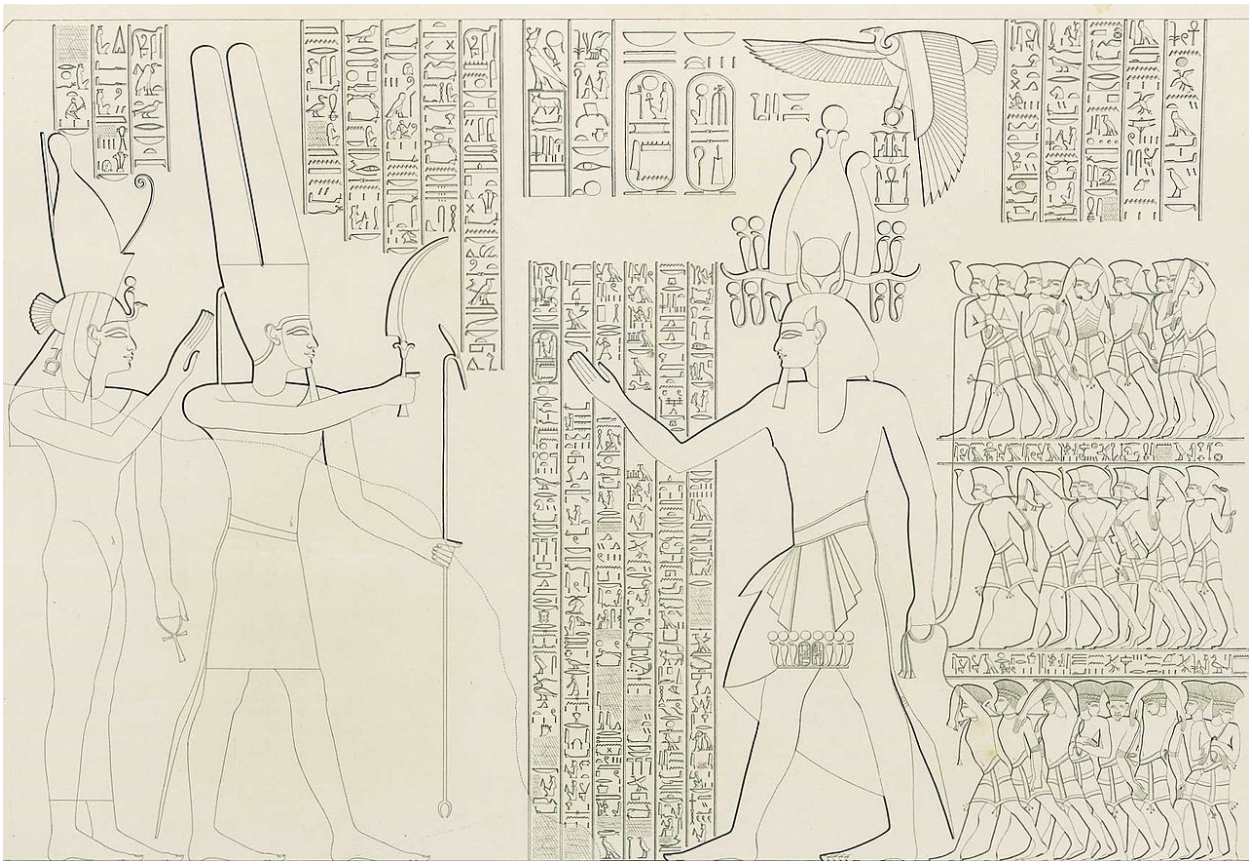
Athribis stele (showing all 19 lines and 14 lines on each face. The reference to "foreigners of the sea" is on line 13 out of 19)











Medinet Habu Second Pylon, showing wide view and a close-up sketch of the left-hand side relief in which Amon, with Mut behind him, extends a sword to Rameses III who is leading three lines of prisoners. The text before the King includes the following:"Thou puttest great terror of me in the hearts of their chiefs; the fear and dread of me before them; that I may carry off their warriors (phrr), bound in my grasp, to lead them to thy ka, O my august father, – – – – –. Come, to [take] them, being: Peleset (Pw-r'-s'-t), Denyen (D'-y-n-yw-n'), Shekelesh (S'-k-rw-s). Thy strength it was which was before me, overthrowing their seed, – thy might, O lord of gods."[85]On the right hand side of the Pylon is the "Great Inscription on the Second Pylon", which includes the following text:"The foreign countries made a conspiracy in their islands, All at once the lands were removed and scattered in the fray. No land could stand before their arms:
from Hatti, Qode, Carchemish, Arzawa and Alashiya on, being cut off [i.e. destroyed] at one time. A camp was set up in Amurru. They desolated its people, and its land was like that which has never come into being. They were coming forward toward Egypt, while the flame was prepared before them. Their confederation was the Peleset, Tjeker, Shekelesh, Denyen and Weshesh, lands united. They laid their hands upon the land as far as the circuit of the earth, their hearts confident and trusting: 'Our plans will succeed!'"[86]

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sea_Peoples

Fall of rome, history: key stuff about late antiquity

Historical approaches and modern syntheses

Main article: Historiography of the fall of the Western Roman Empire

Since 1776, when Edward Gibbon published the first volume of his *The History of the Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire*, Decline and Fall has been the theme around which much of the history of the Roman Empire has been structured. "From the eighteenth century onward," historian Glen Bowersock wrote, "we have been obsessed with the fall: it has been valued as an archetype for every perceived decline, and, hence, as a symbol for our own fears."[5]

The Fall is not the only unifying concept for events of this time period; the period described as Late Antiquity emphasizes the cultural continuities throughout and beyond the political collapse.

Another paradigm of the period

Main article: Late antiquity

From at least the time of Henri Pirenne (1862-1935), scholars have described a continuity of Roman culture and political legitimacy long after 476.[6]:5–7[7] Pirenne postponed the demise of classical civilization to the 8th century. He challenged the notion that Germanic barbarians had caused the Western Roman Empire to end, and he refused to equate the end of the Western Roman Empire with the end of the office of emperor in Italy. He pointed out the essential continuity of the economy of the Roman Mediterranean even after the barbarian invasions, and suggested that only the Muslim conquests represented a decisive break with antiquity.

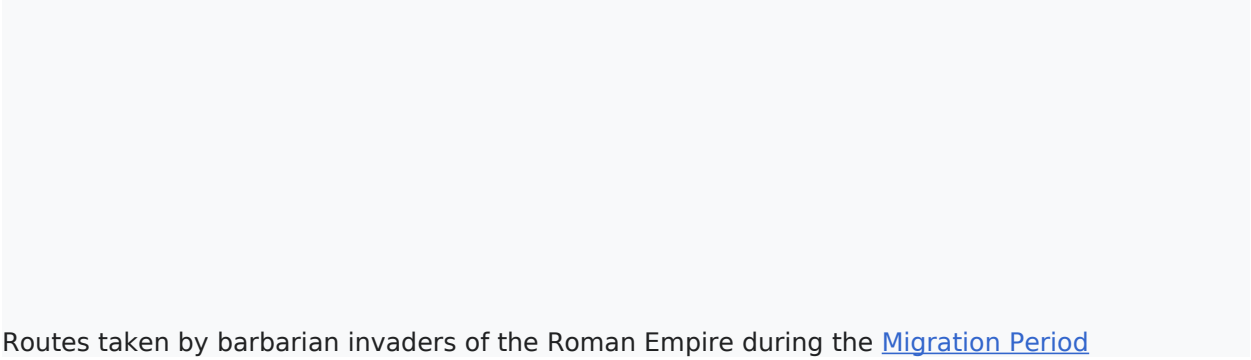
The more recent formulation of a historical period characterized as "Late Antiquity" emphasizes the transformations of ancient to medieval worlds within a cultural continuity.[8] In recent decades archaeologically based argument even extends the continuity in material culture and in patterns of settlement as late as the eleventh century.[9][10][11][12] Observing the political reality of lost control (and the attendant fragmentation of commerce, culture, and language), but also the cultural and archaeological continuities, the process has been described as a complex cultural transformation, rather than a fall.[13]:34 As a result, for many contemporary scholars, "the perception of Late Antiquity has significantly changed: the period is no longer seen as an era of decline and crisis but as an epoch of metamorphosis in the Mediterranean region".[14][15]:3,4

Timespan

A recent synthesis gives four decisive turns of events in the transformation from the height of the empire to the early Middle Ages:

- The Antonine Plague that ended a long period of demographic and economic expansion, weakening but not toppling the empire.

- The Crisis of the Third Century, in which climatic change, renewed pandemic disease, and internal and external political instability led to the near-collapse of the imperial system. Its reconstitution included a new basis for the currency, an expanded professional government apparatus, emperors further distanced from their people, and, shortly, the rise of Christianity, a proselytizing, exclusive religion that anticipated the imminent end of the world.
- The military and political failure of the West, in which mass migration from the Eurasian steppe overcame and dismembered the western part of an internally-weakened empire. The eastern empire rebuilt itself again and began the reconquest of the West.



Routes taken by barbarian invaders of the Roman Empire during the Migration Period

- In the lands around the Mediterranean the Late Antique Little Ice Age and the Plague of Justinian created one of the worst environmental cataclysms in recorded history. The imperial system crumbled in the next couple of generations and then lost vast territories to the armies of Islam, a new proselytizing, exclusive religion that also looked forward to an imminent end time. The diminished and impoverished Byzantine rump state survived amid perpetual strife between and among the followers of Christianity and Islam.[16]

The loss of centralized political control over the West, and the lessened power of the East, are universally agreed, but the theme of decline has been taken to cover a much wider time span than the hundred years from 376. For Cassius Dio, the accession of the emperor Commodus in 180 CE marked the descent "from a kingdom of gold to one of rust and iron".[17] Since the age of humanism, the process of the Fall has been thought to have begun with Constantine the Great, or with the soldier emperors who seized power through command of the army from 235 through 284, or with Commodus, or even with Augustus.[14]

Gibbon was uncertain about when decline began. "In the first paragraph of his text, Gibbon wrote that he intended to trace the decline from the golden age of the Antonines"; later text has it beginning about A.D. 180 with the death of Marcus Aurelius; while in chapter 7, he pushes the start of the decline to about 52 B.C., the time of Julius Caesar and Pompey and Cicero.[18] Gibbon placed the western empire's end with the removal of the man Gibbon referred to as "the helpless Augustulus" in 476.[19]

Arnold J. Toynbee and James Burke argue that the entire Imperial era was one of steady decay of institutions founded in republican times. Theodor Mommsen excluded the imperial period from his Nobel Prize-winning *History of Rome* (1854–1856). As one convenient marker for the end, 476 has been used since Gibbon, but other key dates for the fall of the Roman Empire in the West include the Crisis of the Third Century, the Crossing of the Rhine in 406 (or 405), the sack of Rome in 410, and the death of Julius Nepos in 480.[20][*page needed*]

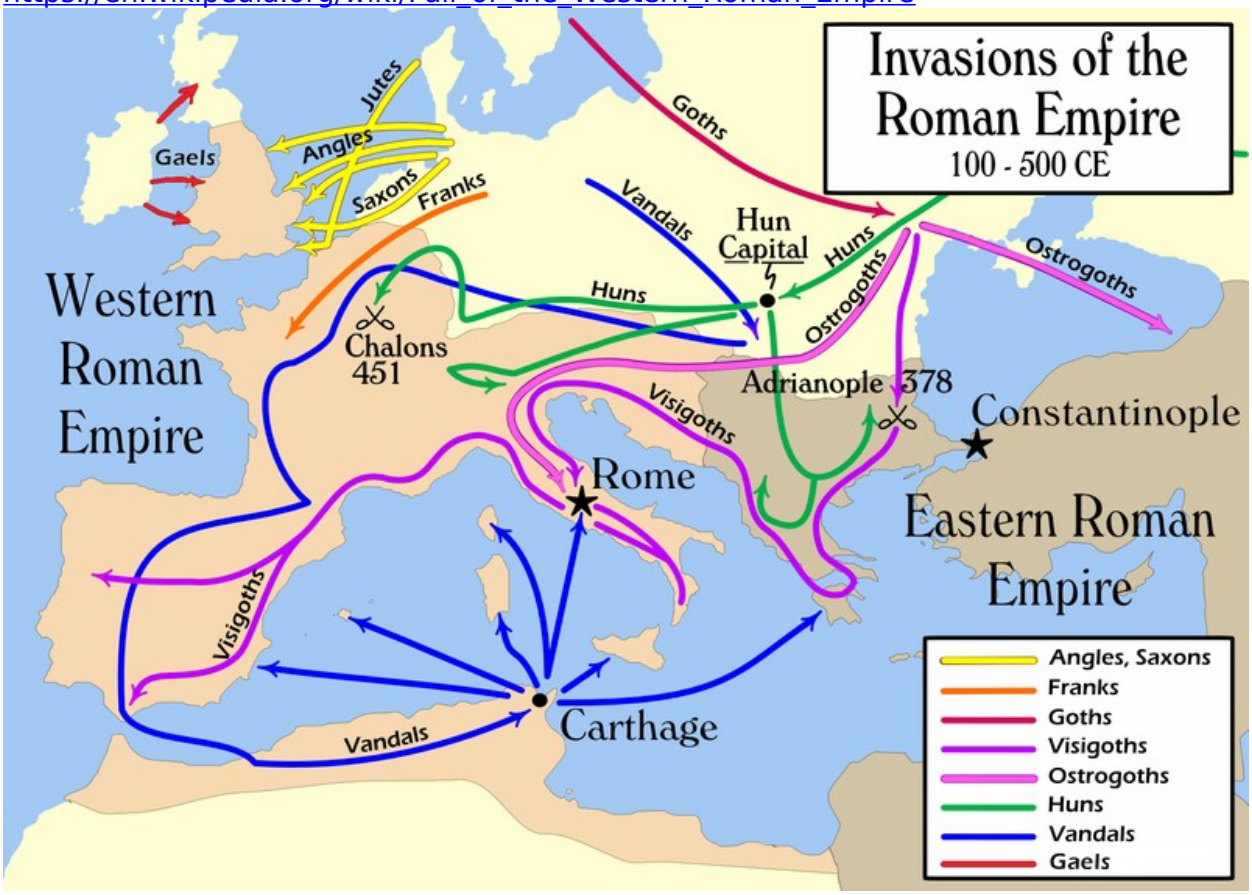
Underlying causes

When Gibbon published his landmark work, it quickly became the standard, and remained so for over 200 years.[21][22] Peter Brown has written that "Gibbon's work formed the peak of a century of scholarship which had been conducted in the belief that the study of the declining Roman Empire was also the study of the origins of modern Europe".[23] Gibbon was the first to attempt an explanation of causes of a Fall of empire.[23] Historian Gerald J. Gruman explains Gibbon's views as built around two important concepts: "balance" and "excess".[24] Gibbon's interpretation of the causes of the decline and fall of the Roman empire are primarily political and can be grouped under four political headings: universal domination, democracy, militarism and religion.[24]

Universal domination

Gibbon assumes the best course for all nations is to preserve a balance of power between them.[24] Without balance, humans produce domination, or its opposite excess, submergence.[25] Rome's pursuit of empire led to its own demise, because such domination is "artificial and abnormal".[25] Gibbon thought that, in its quest for world dominion, Rome had created a situation that intensified the evils of despotism, lost public freedom, and allowed the universal dominion of their *Pax Romana* to cause the deterioration of the political virtues.[26] The Roman Empire included many different nations and cultures, and Rome pushed assimilation by offering citizenship in what Gibbon saw as a profligate manner. The citizens of the Roman world-empire "received the name without adopting the spirit of Romans".[26] This led to what Gibbon saw as an obliteration of what it meant to be Roman.[26]

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fall_of_the_Western_Roman_Empire



Stats, history, rome: the first roman pandemic: Antonine Plague

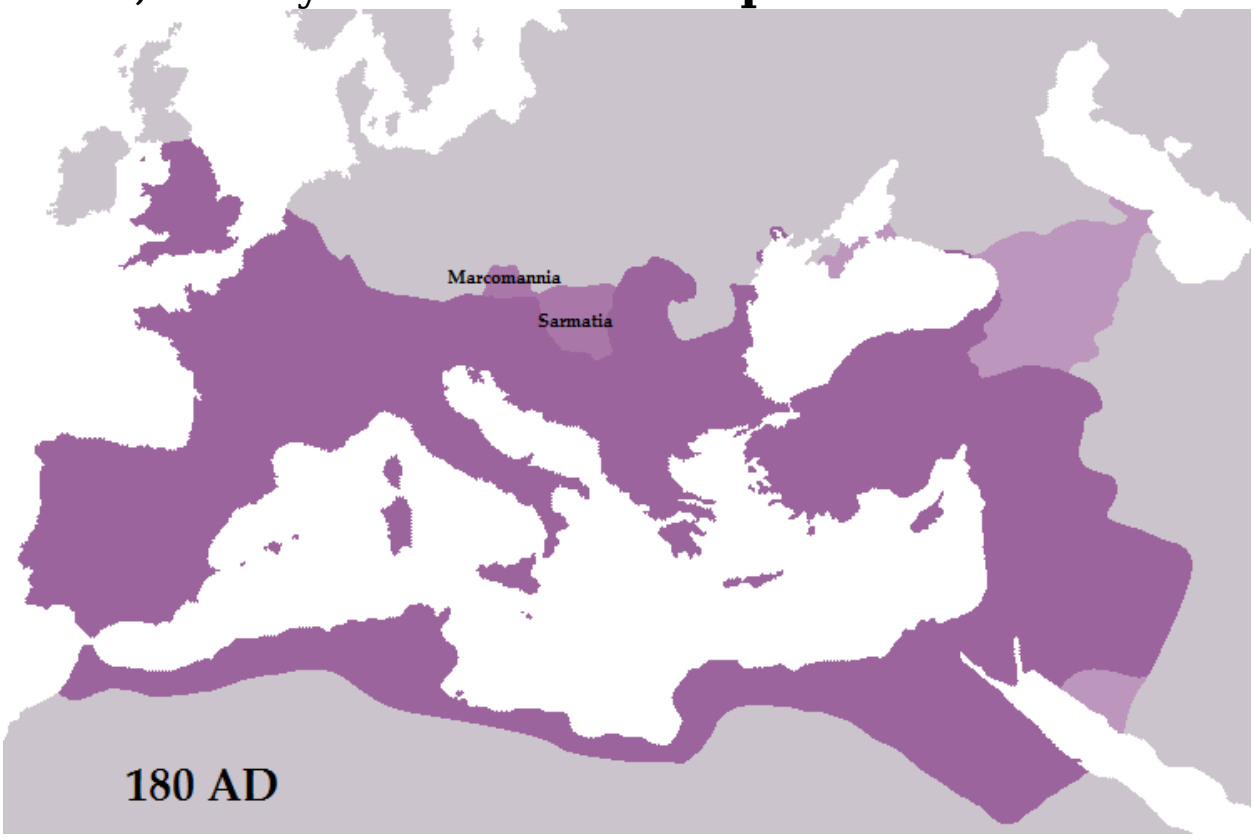
The *Antonine Plague* of AD 165 to 180, also known as the **Plague of Galen** (after Galen, the Greek physician who described it), was the first known pandemic impacting the Roman Empire, possibly contracted and spread by soldiers who were returning from campaign in the Near East. Scholars generally believe the plague was smallpox,[1][2][3] although measles has also been suggested.[4][5][6][7]

The plague caused "irreparable" damage to the Roman maritime trade in the Indian Ocean as proven by the archaeological record spanning from Egypt to India as well as significantly decreased Roman commercial activity in Southeast Asia.[42] However, as evidenced by the 3rd-century *Periplus of the Erythraean Sea* and the 6th-century *Christian Topography* by Cosmas Indicopleustes, Roman maritime trade into the Indian Ocean, particularly in the silk and spice trades, certainly did not cease but continued until the loss of Egypt to the Muslim Rashidun Caliphate

Fall of rome, history, Germany: the great migrations of 200 ad: At the same time, in Central Europe during the second-century AD, the first movements of the Great Migrations were occurring, as the Goths began moving south-east from their ancestral lands at the mouth of River Vistula (see Wielbark culture), putting pressure on the Germanic tribes from the north and east. As a result, Germanic tribes and other nomadic peoples launched raids south and west across Rome's northern border, particularly into Gaul and across the Danube

At the same time, in Central Europe during the second-century AD, the first movements of the Great Migrations were occurring, as the Goths began moving south-east from their ancestral lands at the mouth of River Vistula (see Wielbark culture), putting pressure on the Germanic tribes from the north and east. As a result, Germanic tribes and other nomadic peoples launched raids south and west across Rome's northern border, particularly into Gaul and across the Danube.[7]

Rome, history: **The Roman Empire in 180 CE.**



Fall of rome, history: The Byzantine senate or eastern Roman senate (Greek: Σύγκλητος, Synklētos, or Γερουσία, Gerousia) was a continuation of the Roman Senate, established in the 4th century by Constantine I. It survived for centuries, but the senate's powers varied greatly during its history and gradually diminished until its eventual disappearance circa 14th century.

Fall of rome, history: In Italy, the Ostrogoths led by Theodoric the Great killed and replaced Odoacer, a Germanic soldier, erstwhile-leader of

the foederati in Northern Italy, and the de facto ruler of Italy, who had deposed the last emperor of the Western Roman Empire, Romulus Augustulus, in 476

The **Ostrogothic Kingdom**, officially the **Kingdom of Italy** (Latin: *Regnum Italiae*),[5] existed under the control of the Germanic Ostrogoths in Italy and neighbouring areas from 493 to 553.

In Italy, the Ostrogoths led by Theodoric the Great killed and replaced Odoacer, a Germanic soldier, erstwhile-leader of the *foederati* in Northern Italy, and the *de facto* ruler of Italy, who had deposed the last emperor of the Western Roman Empire, Romulus Augustulus, in 476. Under Theodoric, its first king, the Ostrogothic kingdom reached its zenith, stretching from modern southern France in the west to the modern western Serbia in the southeast. Most of the social institutions of the late Western Roman Empire were preserved during his rule. Theodoric called himself *Gothorum Romanorumque rex* ("King of the Goths and Romans"), demonstrating his desire to be a leader for both peoples.

Starting in 535, the Byzantine Empire invaded Italy under Justinian I. The Ostrogothic ruler at that time, Witiges, could not defend the kingdom successfully and was finally captured when the capital Ravenna fell. The Ostrogoths rallied around a new leader, Totila, and largely managed to reverse the conquest, but were eventually defeated. The last king of the Ostrogothic Kingdom was Teia.

Coin depicting Theodoric the Great (475–526)	
The Ostrogothic Kingdom at its greatest extent.	
Capital	Ravenna (493 to 540) Pavia (540 to 553)
Common languages	Gothic, Vulgar Latin
Religion	**Official:** Arian and Chalcedonian Christianity[1] **Minorities:** Judaism,[2] Pelagian Christianity,[3]

	Syncretic Roman paganism,[4] Manichaeism[3]
Government	Monarchy
King	
• 493–526	Theodoric (first)
• 552–553	Teia (last)
Historical era	Late Antiquity
• Battles of Isonzo and Verona	489
• Fall of Ravenna	469 (493 in Italy)
• Start of Gothic War	535
• Battle of Mons Lactarius	553

Preceded by	Succeeded by
Kingdom of Italy under Odoacer Hunnic Empire Rugiland	Byzantine Empire under the Justinian dynasty Exarchate of Ravenna Duchy of Rome Avar Khaganate

Church, holy roman empire, history: readlater, church: Church of the Holy Apostles https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Church_of_the_Holy_Apostles

Fall of rome, history: Between 376 and 382 the Gothic War against the Eastern Roman Empire, and in particular the Battle of Adrianople, is commonly seen as a major turning point in the history of the Roman Empire, the first of a series of events over the next century that would see the collapse of the Western Roman Empire, although its ultimate importance to the Empire's eventual fall is still debated.[4][5]

Between 376 and 382 the **Gothic War** against the Eastern Roman Empire, and in particular the Battle of Adrianople, is commonly seen as a major turning point in the history of the Roman Empire, the first of a series of events over the next century that would see the collapse of the Western Roman Empire, although its ultimate importance to the Empire's eventual fall is still debated.[4][5] It was one of the many Gothic Wars with the Roman Empire.

Background[edit]

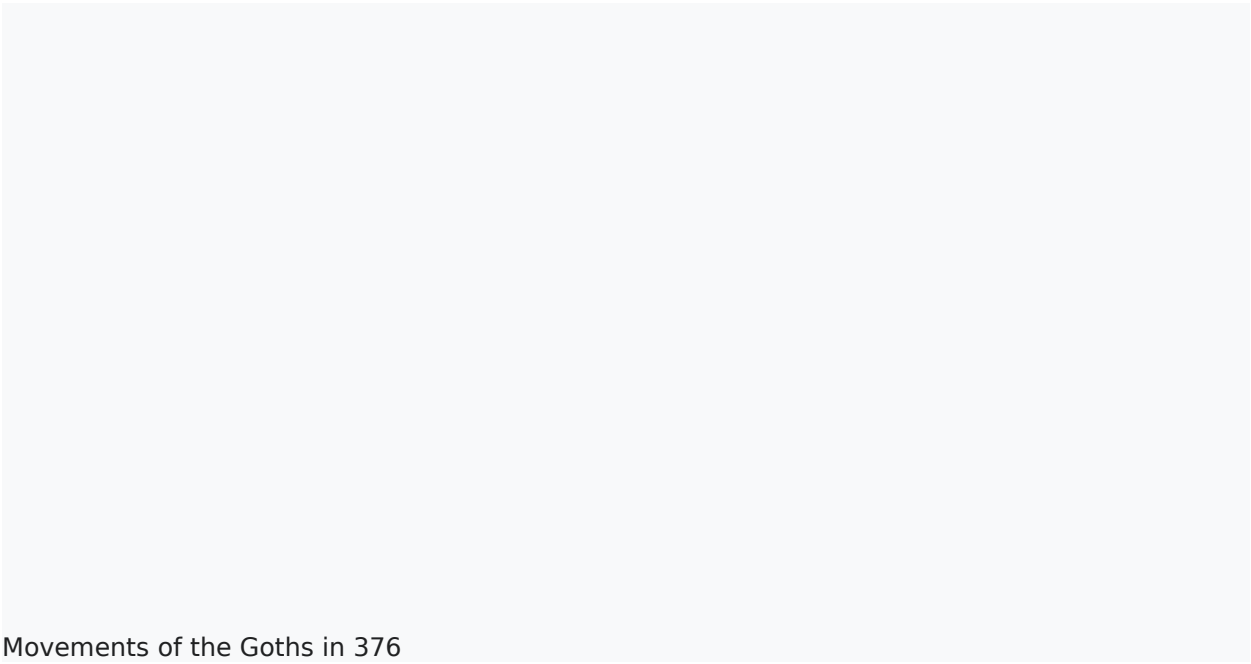
In the summer of 376, a massive number of Goths arrived on the Danube River, the border of the Roman Empire, requesting asylum from the Huns.[6] There were two groups: the Thervings led by Fritigern and Alavivus and the Greuthungi led by Alatheus and Saphrax.[7] Eunapius states their number as 200,000 including civilians but Peter Heather estimates that the Thervings may have had only 10,000 warriors and 50,000 people in total, with the Greuthungi about the same size.[8] The Cambridge Ancient History places modern estimates at around 90,000 people.[9]

The Goths sent ambassadors to Valens, the Eastern Roman emperor, requesting permission to settle their people inside the Empire.[10] It took them some time to arrive, for the Emperor was in Antioch preparing for a campaign against the Sasanian Empire over control of Armenia and Iberia. The bulk of his forces were stationed in the East, far away from the Danube.[11] Ancient sources are unanimous that Valens was pleased at the appearance of the Goths, as it offered the opportunity of new soldiers at low cost.[12] With Valens committed to action on the Eastern frontier, the appearance of a large number of barbarians meant his skeleton force in the Balkans were outnumbered.[13] Valens must have appreciated the danger when he gave the Thervings permission to

enter the empire and the terms he gave them were highly favorable. This was not the first time barbarian tribes had been settled; the usual course was that some would be recruited into the army and the rest would be broken up into small groups and resettled across the empire at the Emperor's discretion. This would keep them from posing a unified threat and assimilate them into the greater Roman population. The agreement differed with the Thervings by allowing them to choose the place of their settlement, Thrace, and allowed them to remain united. During the negotiations, the Thervings also expressed a willingness to convert to Christianity. As for the Greuthungi, Roman army and naval forces blocked the river and denied their crossing.[14]

The Thervings were probably allowed to cross at or near the fortress of Durostorum.[15] They were ferried by the Romans in boats, rafts and in hollowed tree-trunks; "diligent care was taken that no future destroyer of the Roman state should be left behind, even if he were smitten by a fatal disease," according to Ammianus Marcellinus. Even so, the river swelled with rain and many drowned.[16] The Goths were to have their weapons confiscated but, whether because the Romans in charge accepted bribes, the Romans did not have the manpower to check all of the incoming warriors, or warriors recruited into the Roman army would need their own arms, many Goths were allowed to retain their weapons.[17][18][a] The Romans placed the Thervings along the southern bank of the Danube in Lower Mœsia as they waited for the land allocations to begin.[20] In the interim, the Roman state was to provide them food.[21]

Breakout[edit]



Movements of the Goths in 376

So many people in such a small area caused a food shortage and the Thervings began to starve.[22] Roman logistics could not cope with the vast numbers, and officials under the command of Lupicinus simply sold off much of the food before it reached the hands of the Goths. Desperate, Gothic families sold many of their children into slavery to Romans for dog meat at the price of one child per one dog.[23][24]

This treatment caused the Therving Goths to grow rebellious and Lupicinus decided to move them south to Marcianople, his regional headquarters.[25] To guard the march south, Lupicinus was forced to pull out the Roman troops guarding the Danube, which

allowed the Greuthungi promptly to cross into Roman territory. The Thervings then deliberately slowed their march to allow the Greuthungi to catch up.[26] As the Thervings approached Marcianople, Lupicinus invited Fritigern, Alavivus and a small group of their attendants to dine with him inside the city. The bulk of the Goths were encamped some distance outside, with Roman troops between them and the city. Due to the persistent refusal of the Roman soldiers to allow the Goths to buy supplies in the town's market, fighting broke out and several Roman soldiers were killed and robbed. Lupicinus, having received the news as he sat at the banquet with the Gothic leaders, ordered Fritigern and Alavivus held hostage and their retainers executed. When news of the killings came to the Goths outside, they prepared to assault Marcianople. Fritigern advised Lupicinus that the best way to calm the situation was to allow him to rejoin his people and show them that he was still alive. Lupicinus agreed and set him free. Alavivus is not mentioned again in the sources and his fate is unknown.[27][28]

Having survived the chaos of the night and the earlier humiliations, Fritigern and the Thervings decided it was time to break the treaty and rebel against the Romans, and the Greuthungi immediately joined them. Fritigern led the Goths away from Marcianople towards Scythia. Lupicinus and his army pursued them 14 km (8.7 mi) from the city, fought the Battle of Marcianople and were annihilated. All the junior officers were killed, the military standards were lost and the Goths secured new weapons and armor from the dead Roman soldiers. Lupicinus survived and escaped back to Marcianople. The Thervings then raided and pillaged throughout the region.[29][30]

History, Greece: Late Bronze Age collapse, greek dark ages

The **Late Bronze Age collapse** was a time of widespread societal collapse during the 12th century BC, between c. 1200 and 1150. The collapse affected a large area of the Eastern Mediterranean (North Africa and Southeast Europe) and the Near East, in particular Egypt, eastern Libya, the Balkans, the Aegean, Anatolia, and the Caucasus. It was sudden, violent, and culturally disruptive for many Bronze Age civilizations, and it brought a sharp economic decline to regional powers, notably ushering in the Greek Dark Ages.

The palace economy of Mycenaean Greece, the Aegean region, and Anatolia that characterized the Late Bronze Age disintegrated, transforming into the small isolated village cultures of the Greek Dark Ages, which lasted from around 1100 to the beginning of the better-known Archaic age around 750 BC. The Hittite Empire of

Anatolia and the Levant collapsed, while states such as the Middle Assyrian Empire in Mesopotamia and the New Kingdom of Egypt survived but were weakened. Conversely, some peoples such as the Phoenicians enjoyed increased autonomy and power with the waning military presence of Egypt and Assyria in West Asia.

The reason why the arbitrary date 1200 BC acts as the beginning of the end of the Late Bronze Age goes back to one German historian, Arnold Hermann Ludwig Heeren. In one of his histories on ancient Greece from 1817, Heeren stated that the first period of Greek prehistory ended around 1200 BC, basing this date on the fall of Troy at 1190 after ten years of war. He then went on in 1826 to date the end of the Egyptian 19th Dynasty as well to around 1200 BC. Throughout the remainder of the 19th century A.D. other events were then subsumed into the year 1200 BC including the invasion of the Sea Peoples, the Dorian invasion, the fall of Mycenaean Greece, and eventually in 1896 the first mention of Israel in the southern Levant recorded on the Merneptah Stele. [1]

Competing theories of the cause of the Late Bronze Age collapse have been proposed since the 19th century. These include volcanic eruptions, droughts, disease, invasions by the Sea Peoples or migrations of the Dorians, economic disruptions due to increased ironworking, and changes in military technology and methods that brought the decline of chariot warfare. Following the collapse, gradual changes in metallurgic technology led to the subsequent Iron Age across Eurasia and Africa during the 1st millennium BC.

War, Russia, sanctions, government: feb15 EU Wants to Use Frozen Russian Funds to Pay for Reconstruction

War, sanctions: feb15 The Chinese balloon that wound up over the continental United States likely ended up there by accident due to unexpected weather, The Washington Post reported on Tuesday.

US officials told the *Post* that US intelligence was tracking the balloon since it was launched from Hainan Island in southern China. They expected it to travel over the US territory of Guam, where the US is opening new military bases to prepare for a future war with China.

Journal: feb15 ***klaus*** schwab is just a leader. Probably a very intelligent, well intentioned

man. I see him as more of a visionary rather than the technocrat he's made out to be in the media.

A nice window into his mind is in his statements below. He says that technology is advancing so rapidly that the world will seem completely different in just 10 years.

'Our life in 10 years from now will be completely different, very much affected, & who masters [#4IR] technologies, in some way, will be the masters of the world': Klaus Schwab, World Government Summit 2023 #WorldGovSummit #WGS

@WorldGovSummit

https://twitter.com/TimHinchliffe/status/1625155704985198596?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw%7Ctwcamp%5Etweetembed%7Ctwterm%5E1625155704985198596%7Ctwgr%5Eb68aa0e5b338be520b5878f82a8d9d67c5867c44%7Ctwcon%5Es1_&ref_url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.zerohedge.com%2Fgeopolitical%2Fwatch-klaus-schwab-calls-global-government-master-ai-technologies

Health, censorship, vaccine: feb15 **Crushing COVID Claims: Scientific Review Challenges 'Fact' That Masks Reduced Transmissions**

The new scientific review by 12 researchers from leading universities found little support for the claims that masks reduced Covid exposures.

My interest in the story, as usual, focuses on free speech.

Numerous experts were suspended or banned for challenging these very claims and the media labeled any such critics as dangerous or fringe figures.

Regardless of your ultimate conclusions on the efficacy of masks, there was clearly a scientific basis to challenge the mask policies. Yet, many people were routinely censored on Twitter and other platforms for daring to challenge the official position on masks.

The Centers for Disease and Control Prevention (CDC) initially rejected the use of a mask mandate. However, the issue became a political weapon as politicians and the press claimed that questioning masks was anti-science and even unhinged. In April 2020, the CDC reversed its position and called for the masking of the entire population, including children as young as 2 years old. The mask mandate and other pandemic measures like the closing of schools are now cited as fueling emotional and developmental problems in children.

The closing of schools and businesses was also challenged by some critics as unnecessary. Many of those critics were also censored. It now appears that they may have been right. Many countries did not close schools and did not experience increases in Covid. However, we are now facing alarming drops in testing scores and alarming rises in medical illness among the young.

Masks became a major social and political dividing line in politics and the media. Maskless people were chased from stores and denounced in Congress. Then-CDC Director Dr. Robert Redfield said during a Senate hearing that “face masks are the most important powerful health tool we have.”

However, the new publication reaffirms earlier studies and states that “a new scientific review suggests that widespread masking may have done little to nothing to curb the transmission of COVID.” It added that “wearing a mask may make little to no difference in how many people caught a flu-like illness/COVID-like illness (nine studies; 276,917 people); and probably makes little or no difference in how many people have flu/COVID confirmed by a laboratory test (six studies; 13,919 people).”

It also found little evidence of a difference from wearing better masks and that “wearing N95/P2 respirators probably makes little to no difference in how many people have confirmed flu (five studies; 8407 people); and may make little to no difference in how many people catch a flu-like illness (five studies; 8407 people), or respiratory illness (three studies; 7799 people).”

Again, I expect that these studies will be debated for years. That is a good thing. There are questions raised over the types of studies used and whether randomized studies are sufficient. The point is only that there were countervailing indicators on mask efficacy and a basis to question the mandates. Yet, there was no real debate because of the censorship supported

by many Democratic leaders in social media. To question such mandates was declared a public health threat.

The head of the World Health Organization even supported censorship to combat what he called an “infodemic.”

A lawsuit was filed by Missouri and Louisiana and joined by leading experts, including Drs. Jayanta Bhattacharya (Stanford University) and Martin Kulldorff (Harvard University).

Bhattacharya previously objected to the suspension of Dr. Clare Craig after she raised concerns about Pfizer trial documents. Those doctors were the co-authors of the Great Barrington Declaration, which advocated for a more focused Covid response that targeted the most vulnerable population rather than widespread lockdowns and mandates. Many are now questioning the efficacy and cost of the massive lockdown as well as the real value of masks or the rejection of natural immunities as an alternative to vaccination. Yet, these experts and others were attacked for such views just a year ago. Some found themselves censored on social media for challenging claims of Dr. Fauci and others.

The media has quietly acknowledged the science questioning mask efficacy and school closures without addressing its own role in attacking those who raised these objections. Even raising the lab theory on the origin of Covid 19 (a theory now treated as plausible) was denounced as a conspiracy theory. The science and health reporter for the New York Times, Apoorva Mandavilli, even denounced the theory as “racist.”

In the meantime, California has moved to potentially strip doctors of their licenses for spreading dissenting views on Covid.

The latest review will not conclusively answer the scientific questions around mask efficacy, but it should answer any lingering questions over the harm of censorship. We never had a serious debate because of the government-corporate-media alliance to snuff out dissenting views on pandemic policies. The result may have been avoidable emotional, economic, and social harm to the population as a whole.

War, iran, sanctions: feb15 **US Shoots Down Iranian-Made Drone Over Occupied Conoco Gas Field**

The Pentagon has revealed that on Tuesday US forces fired on and took down an alleged 'Iranian-made' drone that was threating a base in Syria where US troops are stationed.

The base is located in northeastern Syria, and the drone flew toward **Mission Support Site Conoco**, named for **the huge gas field that US-backed forces have for years occupied** in Deir Ezzor province.

US forces have occupied the major Conoco gas field, among Syria's largest which chiefly supplied Syria's population, for years under the guise of a 'counter-ISIS' mission. via AFP

US Central Command said the drone was shot down mid-afternoon on Tuesday, following several recent attacks on US positions in the region, and also amid a spate of attacks at the Syria-Iraq border base of al-Tanf.

One of the biggest recent incidents at Conoco gas field involved an August skirmish wherein the US counter-attacked against what were believed to be Iran-backed fighters. The Pentagon at the time said it took out four enemy militants and destroyed rocket launchers.

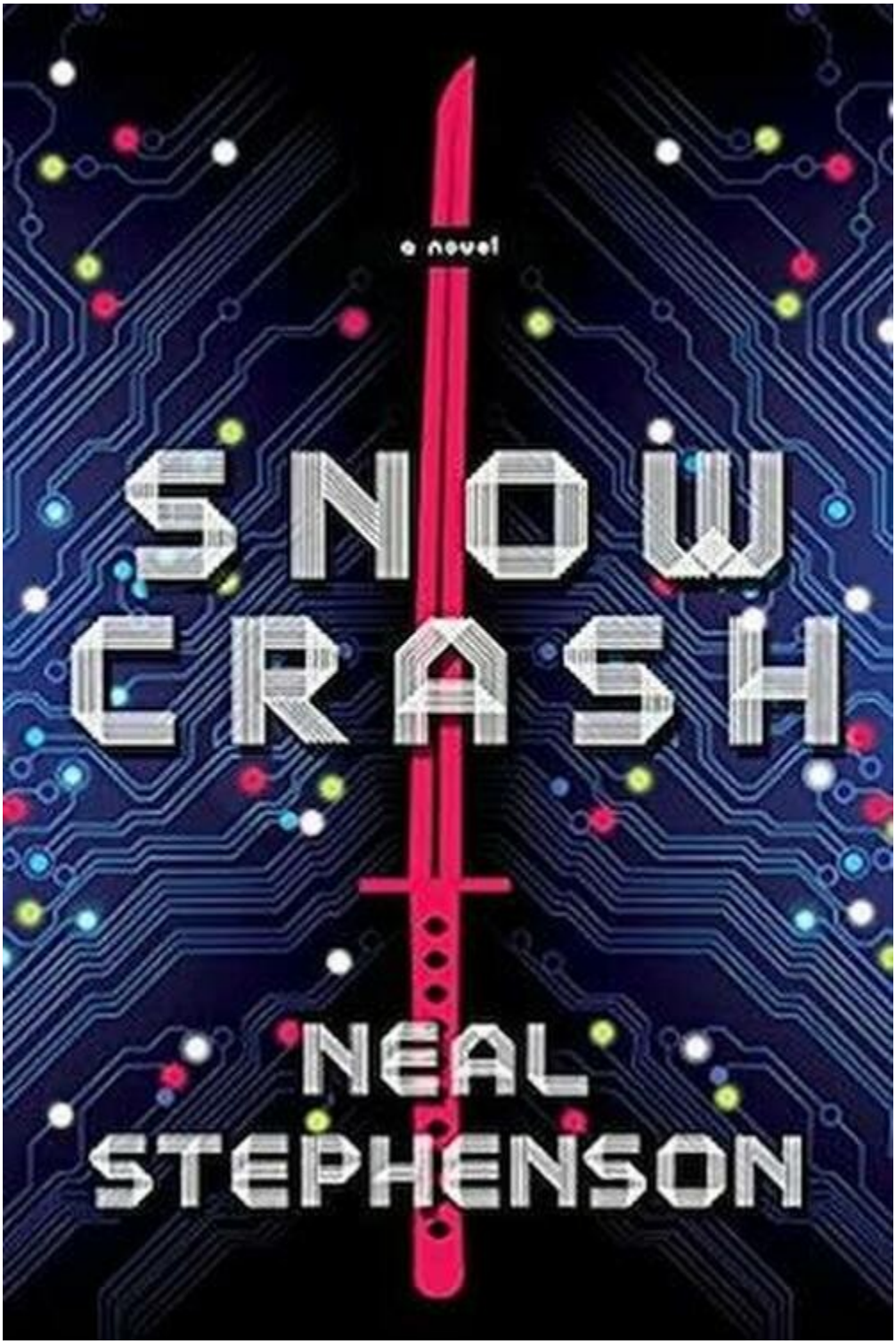
It's unclear whether the attacks have indeed originated from 'Iranian militias' or else Syrian nationalist militias, or perhaps both, given the close alliance and cooperation among Iranian operatives and Syrian forces.

CENTCOM took the rare step in this latest instance of publishing **photographs of what appears a large drone over US positions, and it going up in flames** after being engaged by US forces...

This fresh drone shootdown incident comes following a deadly 7.8 magnitude earthquake which rocked the whole region, killing tens of thousands of people and leaving entire towns and villages as rubble.

Stats: feb15 stats: cool book predicted the Metaverse in 1992: Reality is a place to escape from, a neoliberal future wrecked by hyperinflation and inequality and run by corporations and gangsters and insane bureaucracy.

Neal Stephenson’s science fiction novel *Snow Crash* predicted the Metaverse in 1992. This cult book has the amusingly-named Hiro Protagonist running around in an artificial cyber world, trying to stop a virus that wipes minds, aided by his hacker friend Y.T. Reality is a place to escape from, a neoliberal future wrecked by hyperinflation and inequality and run by corporations and gangsters and insane bureaucracy.



Ai, tech: feb15 chatgpt rollout errors so far..

If you haven’t been paying attention, here’s what’s transpired so far.

- The demo was full of errors

- It started gaslighting people
- It suffered an existential crisis
- The prompt leaked
- And then it started threatening people

War, sanctions, Germany, government, energy: feb15 Biden Willing To Let Germans Freeze In Blowing Up Pipeline: Seymour Hersh Interview

Pulitzer Prize winning journalist Seymour Hersh in a fresh interview with Germany's *Berliner Zeitung* newspaper which follows up on his bombshell reporting *How America Took Out The Nord Stream Pipeline,* has provided more context to the Biden White House's decision-making behind the brazen, high-risk covert op.

"The President of the United States **would rather see Germany freeze than [see] Germany possibly stop supporting Ukraine**," Hersh asserted.

History, war of three kingdoms, journal: feb15 Glorious Revolution, readlater https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glorious_Revolution

important people, read later

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anne_of_Austria

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cardinal_Mazarin

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Louis_XIV

rome, history, church: divine right of kings, history, different examples

Significantly, the doctrine asserts that a monarch is not accountable to any earthly authority (such as a parliament) because their right to rule is derived from divine authority. Thus, the monarch is not subject to the will of the people, of the aristocracy,

or of any other estate of the realm. It follows that only divine authority can judge a monarch, and that any attempt to depose, dethrone or restrict their powers runs contrary to God's will and may constitute a sacrilegious act. It is often expressed in the phrase *by the Grace of God*, Derived from the Latin title "Dei Gratia" ("Dei Gratia Regina", by the grace of God, Queen. "Dei Gratia Rex", by the grace of God, King) which has historically been attached to the titles of certain reigning monarchs. Note, however, that such accountability only to God does not *per-se* make the monarch a sacred king.

Historically, many notions of rights have been authoritarian and hierarchical, with different people granted different rights and some having more rights than others. For instance, the right of a father to receive respect from his son did not indicate a right for the son to receive a return from that respect. Analogously, the divine right of kings, which permitted absolute power over subjects, provided few rights for the subjects themselves.[1]

In contrast, conceptions of rights developed during the Age of Enlightenment – for example during the American and French Revolutions – often emphasised liberty and equality as being among the most important of rights.

Pre-Christian conceptions[edit]

Zoroastrianism (Iranian world)[edit]

Main article: Khvarenah

Ahura Mazda gives divine kingship to Ardashir.

Khvarenah (also spelled *khwarenah* or *xwarra(h)*: Avestan: □□□□□□□ *xᵛarənah*; Persian: فرّ, romanized: *far*) is an Iranian and Zoroastrian concept, which literally means *glory*, about divine right of the kings. This may stem from early Mesopotamian culture, where kings were often regarded as deities after their death. Shulgi of Ur was among the first Mesopotamian rulers to declare himself to be divine. In the Iranian view, kings would never rule, unless Khvarenah is with them, and they will never fall unless Khvarenah leaves them. For example, according to the *Kar-namag of Ardashir*, when Ardashir I of Persia and Artabanus V of Parthia fought for the throne of Iran, on the road Artabanus and his contingent are overtaken by an enormous ram, which is also following Ardashir. Artabanus's religious advisors explain to him that the ram is the manifestation of the *khwarrah* of the ancient Iranian kings, which is leaving Artabanus to join Ardashir.[2]

Roman Empire[edit]

The Imperial cult of ancient Rome identified Roman emperors and some members of their families with the "divinely sanctioned" authority (*auctoritas*) of the Roman State. The official offer of *cultus* to a living emperor acknowledged his office and rule as divinely approved and constitutional: his Principate should therefore demonstrate pious respect for traditional Republican deities and mores. Many of the rites, practices and

status distinctions that characterized the cult to emperors were perpetuated in the theology and politics of the Christianised Empire.[3]

Outside of Christianity, especially in religious societies (such as Muslim and Jewish societies), kings were often seen as ruling with the backing of heavenly powers or perhaps even as divine beings themselves. However, the Christian notion of a divine right of kings is traced to a story found in 1 Samuel, where the prophet Samuel anoints Saul and then David[7] as *Messiah* ("anointed one")—king over Israel. In the Jewish traditions, the lack of a divine leadership represented by an anointed king [beginning shortly after the death of Joshua] left the people of Israel vulnerable, and the promise of the "promised land" was not fully fulfilled until a king was anointed by a prophet on behalf of God.

The effect of anointing was seen to be that the monarch became inviolable, so that even when Saul sought to kill David, David would not raise his hand against him because "he was the Lord's anointed". Raising a hand to a king was therefore considered to be as sacrilegious as raising a hand against God, and stood on equal footing as blasphemy. In essence, the king stood in place of God and was never to be challenged "without the challenger being accused of blasphemy" - except by a prophet, which under Christianity was replaced by the church.

Although the later Roman Empire had developed the European concept of a divine regent in Late Antiquity, Adomnan of Iona provides one of the earliest written examples of a Western medieval concept of kings ruling with divine right. He wrote of the Irish King Diarmait mac Cerbaill's assassination and claimed that divine punishment fell on his assassin for the act of violating the monarch. Adomnan also recorded a story about Saint Columba supposedly being visited by an angel carrying a glass book, who told him to ordain Aedan mac Gabrain as King of Dal Riata. Columba initially refused, and the angel answered by whipping him and demanding that he perform the ordination because God had commanded it. The same angel visited Columba on three successive nights. Columba finally agreed, and Aedan came to receive ordination. At the ordination, Columba told Aedan that so long as he obeyed God's laws, then none of his enemies would prevail against him, but the moment he broke them, this protection would end, and the same whip with which Columba had been struck would be turned against the king. Adomnan's writings most likely influenced other Irish writers, who in turn influenced continental ideas as well. Pepin the Short's coronation may have also come from the same influence.[8] The Byzantine Empire can be seen as the progenitor of this concept (which began with Constantine I). This in turn inspired the Carolingian dynasty and the Holy Roman Emperors, whose lasting impact on Western and Central Europe further inspired all subsequent Western ideas of kingship.

In the Middle Ages, the idea that God had granted earthly power to the monarch, just as he had given spiritual authority and power to the church, especially to the Pope, was already a well-known concept long before later writers coined the term "divine right of kings" and employed it as a theory in political science. For example, Richard I of England declared at his trial during the diet at Speyer in 1193: "I am born in a rank which recognizes no superior but God, to whom alone I am responsible for my actions", and it was Richard who first used the motto *"Dieu et mon droit"* ("God and my right") which is still the motto of the Monarch of the United Kingdom.[9]

With the rise of nation-states and the Protestant Reformation in the late 16th century, the theory of divine right justified the king's absolute authority in both political and spiritual matters. Henry VIII of England declared himself the Supreme Head of the

Church of England, and exerted the power of the throne more than any of his predecessors. As a political theory, it was further developed by James VI of Scotland (1567–1625), and came to the fore in England under his reign as James I of England (1603–1625). Louis XIV of France (1643–1715) strongly promoted the theory as well.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Divine_right_of_kings

china, stats: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thucydides_Trap

History, fall of the roman empire, stats: **Iberian Kingdoms in 1400**

Infante: the Iberian kingdoms of Spain https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Infante

Journal, history, church: the change from moors/jews/muslims in the iberians peninsula to catholics seems to have been fast tracked here, 1400 and something

In 1497, King Manuel I of Portugal forced all Jews in his kingdom to convert or leave. That same year he expelled all Muslims that were not slaves,[103] and in 1502 the Catholic Monarchs followed suit, imposing the choice of conversion to Christianity or exile and loss of property. Many Jews and Muslims fled to North Africa and the Ottoman Empire, while others publicly converted to Christianity and became known respectively as Marranos and Moriscos (after the old term *Moors*).[104] However, many of these continued to practice their religion in secret. The Moriscos revolted several times and were ultimately forcibly expelled from Spain in the early 17th century. From 1609 to 1614, over 300,000 Moriscos were sent on ships to North Africa and other locations, and, of this figure, around 50,000 died resisting the expulsion, and 60,000 died on the journey.[105][106]

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Iberian_Peninsula

romans ruled iberian peninsula for 600 years

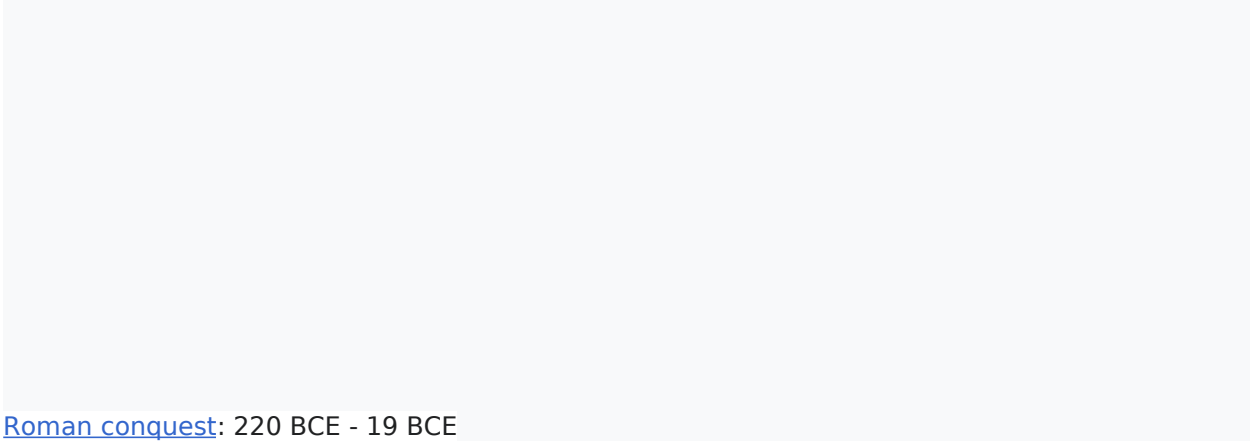
600-year occupation of the Iberian Peninsula

History[edit]

Roman rule[edit]

> This section **does not cite any sources**. Please help improve this section by adding citations to reliable sources. Unsourced material may be challenged and removed. *(December 2022) (Learn how and when to remove this template message)*

Main article: Hispania



Roman conquest: 220 BCE - 19 BCE

In 218 BCE, during the Second Punic War against the Carthaginians, the first Roman troops occupied the Iberian Peninsula; however, it was not until the reign of Augustus that it was annexed after 200 years of war with the Celts and Iberians. The result was the creation of the province of Hispania. It was divided into Hispania Ulterior and Hispania Citerior during the late Roman Republic, and during the Roman Empire, it was divided into Hispania Tarraconensis in the northeast, Hispania Baetica in the south and Lusitania in the southwest.

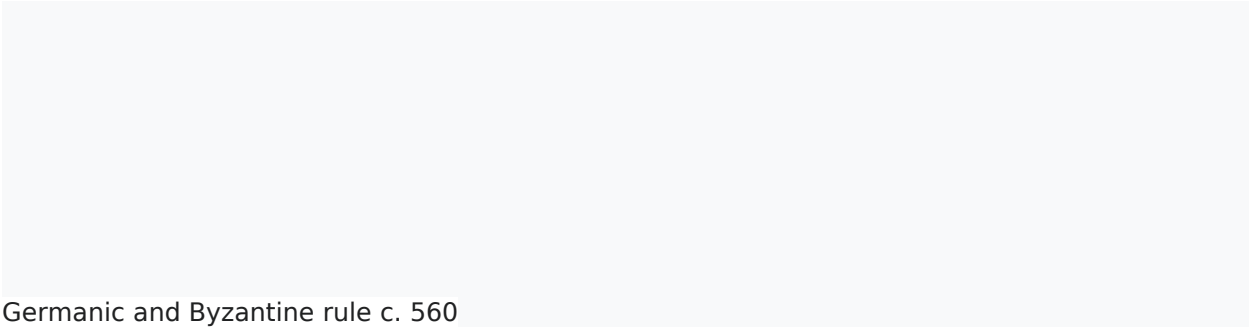
Hispania supplied the Roman Empire with silver, food, olive oil, wine, and metal. The emperors Trajan, Hadrian, Marcus Aurelius, and Theodosius I, the philosopher Seneca the Younger, and the poets Martial and Lucan were born from families living on the Iberian Peninsula.

During their 600-year occupation of the Iberian Peninsula, the Romans introduced the Latin language that influenced many of the languages that exist today in the Iberian peninsula.

See also: Lusitania, Hispania Tarraconensis, and Hispania Baetica

Pre-modern Iberia[edit]

See also: Visigothic Kingdom, Al-Andalus, Spania, and Kingdom of the Suebi



Germanic and Byzantine rule c. 560

In the early fifth century, Germanic peoples occupied the peninsula, namely the Suebi, the Vandals (Silingi and Hasdingi) and their allies, the Alans. Only the kingdom of the Suebi (Quadi and Marcomanni) would endure after the arrival of another wave of Germanic invaders, the Visigoths, who occupied all of the Iberian Peninsula and expelled or partially integrated the Vandals and the Alans. The Visigoths eventually occupied the Suebi kingdom and its capital city, Bracara (modern day Braga), in 584–585. They would also occupy the province of the Byzantine Empire (552–624)

of Spania in the south of the peninsula. However, Balearic Islands remained in Byzantine hands until Umayyad conquest in 707.[citation needed]

Main articles: Al-Andalus and Reconquista

In 711, a Muslim army conquered the Visigothic Kingdom in Hispania. Under Tariq ibn Ziyad, the Islamic army landed at Gibraltar and, in an eight-year campaign, occupied all except the northern kingdoms of the Iberian Peninsula in the Umayyad conquest of Hispania. Al-Andalus (Arabic: الإندلس, tr. *al-ʾAndalūs*, possibly "Land of the Vandals"),[38][39] is the Arabic name given to Muslim Iberia. The Muslim conquerors were Arabs and Berbers; following the conquest, conversion and arabization of the Hispano-Roman population took place, [40] (*muwalladum* or *Muladí*).[41][42] After a long process, spurred on in the 9th and 10th centuries, the majority of the population in Al-Andalus eventually converted to Islam.[43] The Muslims were referred to by the generic name *Moors*.[44] The Muslim population was divided per ethnicity (Arabs, Berbers, Muladí), and the supremacy of Arabs over the rest of group was a recurrent causal for strife, rivalry and hatred, particularly between Arabs and Berbers.[45] Arab elites could be further divided in the Yemenites (first wave) and the Syrians (second wave).[46] Christians and Jews were allowed to live as part of a stratified society under the *dhimmah* system,[47] although Jews became very important in certain fields.[48] Some Christians migrated to the Northern Christian kingdoms, while those who stayed in Al-Andalus progressively arabised and became known as *musta'arab* (mozarabs).[49] The slave population comprised the *Ṣaqāliba* (literally meaning "slavs", although they were slaves of generic European origin) as well as Sudanese slaves.[50]

The Umayyad rulers faced a major Berber Revolt in the early 740s; the uprising originally broke out in North Africa (Tangier) and later spread across the peninsula.[51] Following the Abbasid takeover from the Umayyads and the shift of the economic centre of the Islamic Caliphate from Damascus to Baghdad, the western province of al-Andalus was marginalised and ultimately became politically autonomous as independent emirate in 756, ruled by one of the last surviving Umayyad royals, Abd al-Rahman I.[52]

Islamic rule: al-Andalus c. 1000

Al-Andalus became a center of culture and learning, especially during the Caliphate of Córdoba. The Caliphate reached the height of its power under the rule of Abd-ar-Rahman III and his successor al-Hakam II, becoming then, in the view of Jaime Vicens Vives, "the most powerful state in Europe".[53] Abd-ar-Rahman III also managed to expand the clout of Al-Andalus across the Strait of Gibraltar,[53] waging war, as well as his successor, against the Fatimid Empire.[54]

Between the 8th and 12th centuries, Al-Andalus enjoyed a notable urban vitality, both in terms of the growth of the preexisting cities as well as in terms of founding of new ones: Córdoba reached a population of 100,000 by the 10th century, Toledo 30,000 by the 11th century and Seville 80,000 by the 12th century.[55]

During the Middle Ages, the North of the peninsula housed many small Christian polities including the Kingdom of Castile, the Kingdom of Aragon, the Kingdom of Navarre, the Kingdom of León or the Kingdom of Portugal, as well as a number of counties that spawned from the Carolingian Marca Hispanica. Christian and Muslim polities fought and allied among themselves in variable alliances.[c] The Christian kingdoms progressively expanded south taking over Muslim territory in what is historiographically known as the "Reconquista" (the latter concept has been however noted as product of the claim to a pre-existing Spanish Catholic nation and it would not necessarily convey adequately "the complexity of centuries of warring and other more peaceable interactions between Muslim and Christian kingdoms in medieval Iberia between 711 and 1492").[57]

Two warriors embrace before the siege of Chincoya Castle (*Cantigas de Santa Maria*).

The Caliphate of Córdoba was subsumed in a period of upheaval and civil war (the Fitna of al-Andalus) and collapsed in the early 11th century, spawning a series of ephemeral statelets, the *taifas*. Until the mid 11th century, most of the territorial expansion southwards of the Kingdom of Asturias/León was carried out through a policy of agricultural colonization rather than through military operations; then, profiting from the feebleness of the taifa principalities, Ferdinand I of León seized Lamego and Viseu (1057–1058) and Coimbra (1064) away from the Taifa of Badajoz (at times at war with the Taifa of Seville);[58][59] Meanwhile, in the same year Coimbra was conquered, in the Northeastern part of the Iberian Peninsula, the Kingdom of Aragon took Barbastro from the Hudid Taifa of Lérida as part of an international expedition sanctioned by Pope Alexander II. Most critically, Alfonso VI of León-Castile conquered Toledo and its wider taifa in 1085, in what it was seen as a critical event at the time, entailing also a huge territorial expansion, advancing from the Sistema Central to La Mancha.[60] In 1086, following the siege of Zaragoza by Alfonso VI of León-Castile, the Almoravids, religious zealots originally from the deserts of the Maghreb, landed in the Iberian Peninsula, and, having inflicted a serious defeat to Alfonso VI at the battle of Zalaca, began to seize control of the remaining taifas.[61]

The Almoravids in the Iberian peninsula progressively relaxed strict observance of their faith, and treated both Jews and Mozarabs harshly, facing uprisings across the peninsula, initially in the Western part.[62] The Almohads, another North-African Muslim

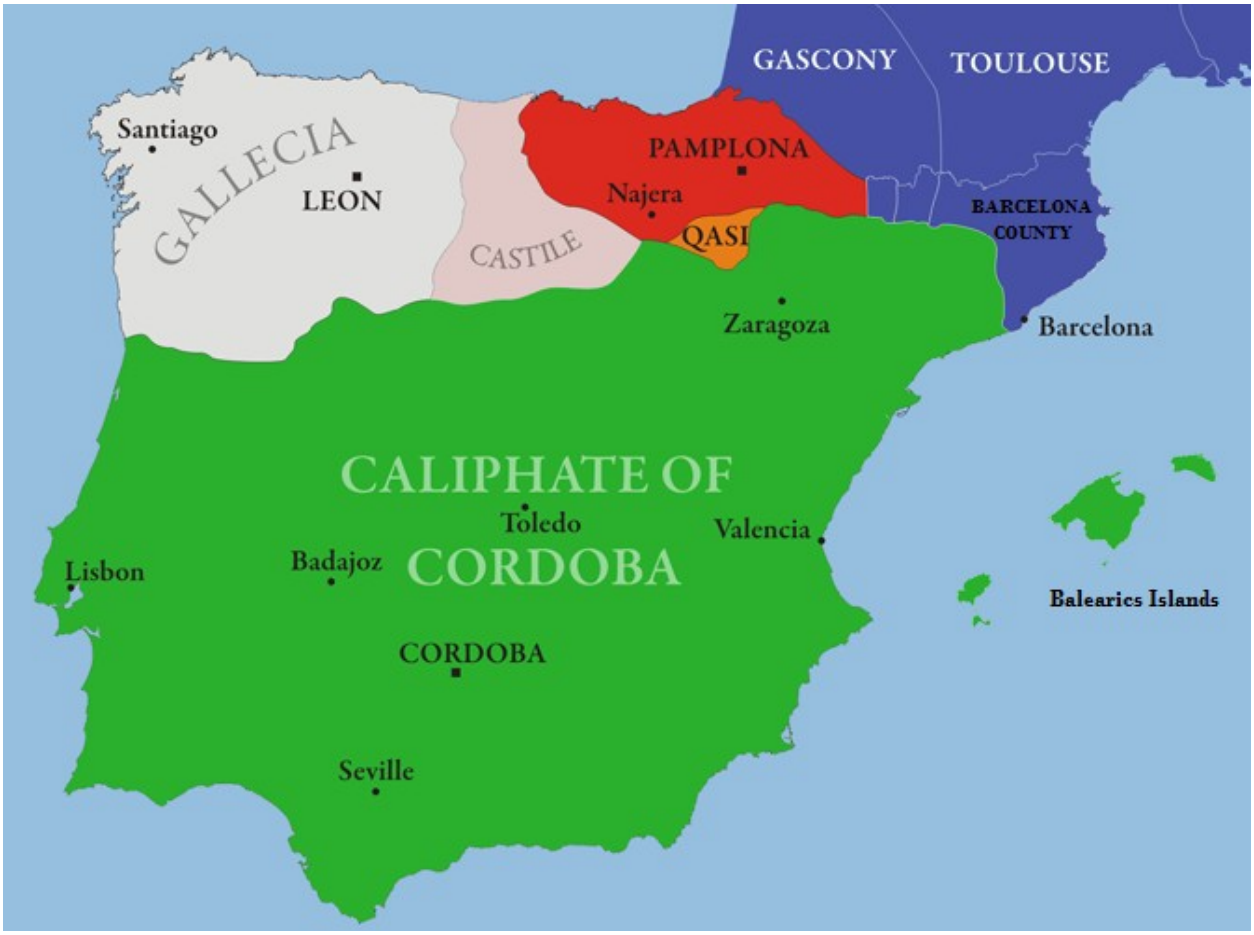
sect of Masmuda Berber origin who had previously undermined the Almoravid rule south of the Strait of Gibraltar,[63] first entered the peninsula in 1146.[64]

Somewhat straying from the trend taking place in other locations of the Latin West since the 10th century, the period comprising the 11th and 13th centuries was not one of weakening monarchical power in the Christian kingdoms.[65] The relatively novel concept of "frontier" (Sp: *frontera*), already reported in Aragon by the second half of the 11th century become widespread in the Christian Iberian kingdoms by the beginning of the 13th century, in relation to the more or less conflictual border with Muslim lands.[66]

By the beginning of the 13th century, a power reorientation took place in the Iberian Peninsula (parallel to the Christian expansion in Southern Iberia and the increasing commercial impetus of Christian powers across the Mediterranean) and to a large extent, trade-wise, the Iberian Peninsula reorientated towards the North away from the Muslim World.[67]

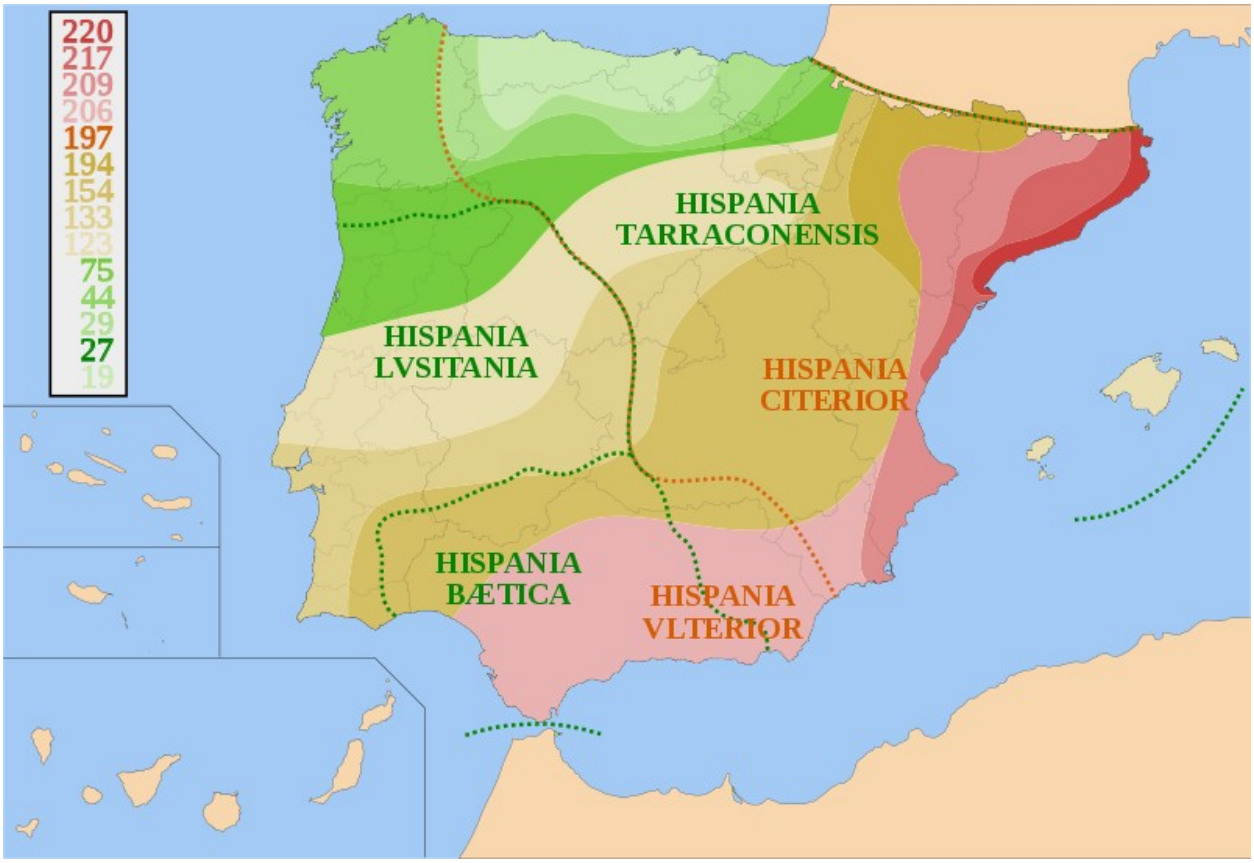
During the Middle Ages, the monarchs of Castile and León, from Alfonso V and Alfonso VI (crowned *Hispaniae Imperator*) to Alfonso X and Alfonso XI tended to embrace an imperial ideal based on a dual Christian and Jewish ideology.[68]

Merchants from Genoa and Pisa were conducting an intense trading activity in Catalonia already by the 12th century, and later in Portugal.[69] Since the 13th century, the Crown of Aragon expanded overseas; led by Catalans, it attained an overseas empire in the Western Mediterranean, with a presence in Mediterranean islands such as the Balearics, Sicily and Sardinia, and even conquering Naples in the mid-15th century.[70] Genoese merchants invested heavily in the Iberian commercial enterprise with Lisbon becoming, according to Virgínia Rau, the "great centre of Genoese trade" in the early 14th century.[71] The Portuguese would later detach their trade to some extent from Genoese influence.[69] The Nasrid Kingdom of Granada, neighbouring the Strait of Gibraltar and founded upon a vassalage relationship with the Crown of Castile,[72] also insinuated itself into the European mercantile network, with its ports fostering intense trading relations with the Genoese as well, but also with the Catalans, and to a lesser extent, with the Venetians, the Florentines, and the Portuguese.[73]



File:Al Andalus & Christian Kingdoms.png

File:Iberia 560.svg



File:Conquista Hispania.svg

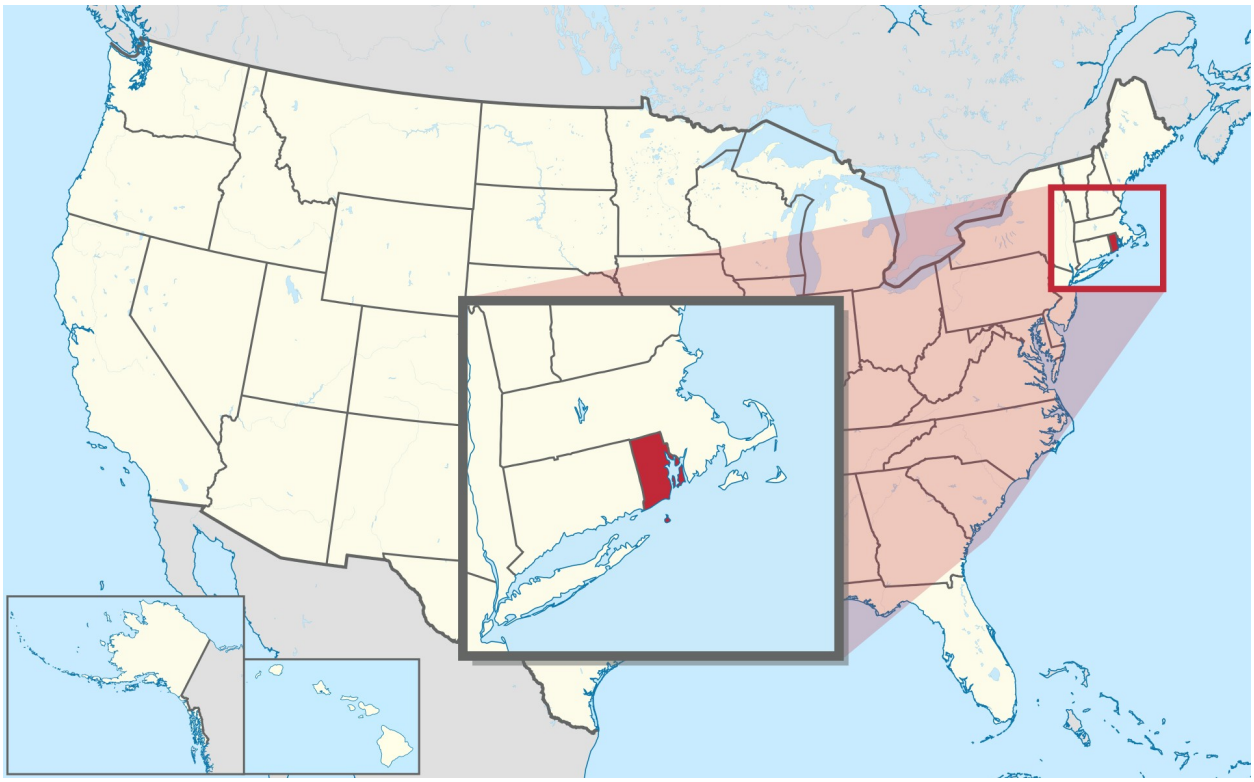
Stats, history: feb15 **the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations**

Rhode Island was unique among the Thirteen British Colonies in having been founded by a refugee, Roger Williams, who fled religious persecution in the Massachusetts Bay Colony to establish a haven for religious liberty. He founded Providence in 1636 on land purchased from local tribes, thereby creating the first settlement in North America with an explicitly secular government.[10] The Colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations subsequently became a destination for religious and political dissenters and social outcasts, earning it the moniker "Rogue's Island".[11]

Rhode Island was the first colony to call for a Continental Congress, which it did in 1774, and the first to renounce its allegiance to the British Crown, which it did on May 4, 1776.[12] After the American Revolution, during which it was heavily occupied and contested, Rhode Island became the fourth state to ratify the Articles of Confederation, which it did on February 9, 1778.[13] Because certain of its citizens favored a weaker central government, it boycotted the 1787 convention that had drafted the United States Constitution,[14] which it initially refused to ratify;[15] it finally did ratify it on May 29, 1790, the last of the original 13 states to do so.[16][17]

It had been officially named the **State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations** since the colonial era, but came to be commonly known as "Rhode Island". In November 2020, the state's voters approved an amendment to the state

constitution formally dropping "and Providence Plantations" from its full name.[18][19] Its official nickname is the "Ocean State", a reference to its 400 miles (640 km) of coastline and the large bays and inlets that make up about 14% of its total area



Government, inflation, markets, stats: feb15

Goldman: 83% of 1 day calls expired at a zero, 91% of 1 day puts expired at a zero.

House always wins...

Some Wild Options Statistics From Goldman

83% of 1 day calls expired at a zero, 91% of 1 day puts expired at a zero.

WED FEB 15, AT 12:40 PM

PREMIUM

4

read later, markets, stats: great short piece written by somebody who seems to know his

stuff. nbever seen him before. learned a lot, saved comments

"This Does Not Seem Normal, Nor Healthy"

BY TYLER DURDEN
WEDNESDAY, FEB 15, 2023 - 10:30 AM

By Peter Tchir of Academy Securities

Yesterday we got the “new” CPI.

We already knew about the upward revisions to prior months as the way they changed the weightings to focus more on “sticky” inflation metrics meant inflation was lower early in the year, but higher later in the year, relative to what had been thought a mere week ago.

CPI came in right around revised expectations on a monthly basis. Since many had thought we would get an upside surprise, **just meeting expectations might explain some, but not all of the initial market reaction**. Goods inflation continues to be weak (expect that to continue with excess inventories still an issue). Service inflation remained strong, but we will start seeing how that does in the coming months and whether or not it is persistent or was subject to a wave of pent-up demand that has been largely satisfied after the late year spending binge.

The 10-year yield dropped from about 3.68% down to a low of 3.62%, back to 3.7%, down to 3.65% then pretty much steadily climbed to 3.795%, where buyers emerged, right on cue, finishing the day at 3.75%.

There were 4 Fed speakers yesterday as well. My overall sense is that while sticking to the more “watchful” and “data dependent” theme that Powell has been leading with, the mentality is starting to shift away from “disinflation” and back to “inflation resurgence”.

Though clearly equities did not get that message, though, to be perfectly honest, I have no idea what message equities got yesterday.

The fluctuations in and around the number seemed unusual, even by recent standards. “Program” trades seemed to be able to drive the market very quickly.

Given the data, the Fed comments and treasuries, stocks were very resilient which is worth noting (especially as they move off their overnight lows as the U.S. open nears).

The bulk of the equity rally (from the European close at 11:30 am, did coincide with treasuries improving, so there is a logic there, but **even then stocks seem to be trading very illiquidly**.

My Takeaways from this “Chop Chop” Trading?

There is little depth to liquidity. At any level, there are all sorts of algos competing for a fraction of a cent, but any material flow is cutting through the “Faux” liquidity like a knife through butter.

This does not seem normal, nor healthy.

Given the shift in the inflation narrative (at least for the coming week or so) along with Fed speakers, I expect to see some pressure on Treasury yields. **The Citi economic surprise indicator went from a 6 month low of -25 on January 18th to an almost 9 month high of +25 last week – a move worth paying attention to.**

Equities went from trading “long” last week, where barely any bid was held, to trading “short” yesterday, where there was an almost palpable “urge” to rally.

That fits my narrative that this market swings from overbought to oversold and vice versa in record time (likely helped by a healthy does of 0DTE trading).

While I have to respect the stock market resilience yesterday, it is difficult to be bullish with a slightly (just slightly) bearish view on rates here. Maybe stocks can trade the “good news” as “good news”, but I suspect that will be difficult.

My view that equities can change their positioning far more rapidly than the past (so I don’t think the “squeezy” feeling we got yesterday, lasts). The relative YTD performance of the Dow (3%) the S&P 500 (8%) and the Nasdaq Composite (14%) is striking. If you dig into “most shorted” stocks, the relative performance is somewhere between stunning and mind-boggling. Yes, there is generally more breadth to recent rallies, than we saw in 2022, but it is still a high beta, highly shorted grab more than anything else.

Government, stats: feb15 **Florida orange growers are harvesting their smallest crop in nearly 90 years, the result of a freeze, two hurricanes and a citrus disease that is laying waste to its groves.**

Stats, censorship, government: feb15 wsj suggests people skip breakfast to save money as an option against sudden price increases for daily morning staple food products.

Feb 14, 2023 at 10:10 am ET

To Save Money, Maybe You Should Skip Breakfast

By Gabriel T. Rubin

Several breakfast staples saw sharp price increases due to a perfect storm of bad weather and disease outbreaks—and continued effects from Russia’s invasion of Ukraine.
Egg prices increased 8.5% in January from a month earlier and are up 70.1% over the past year, the highest annual rate since 1973. The deadliest avian-influenza outbreak on record has devastated poultry flocks across the U.S., leading the price of eggs to rise more than any other grocery item in 2022, according to Information Resources Inc. U.S. egg inventories were 29% lower

in the final week of December 2022 than at the beginning of 2022, according to the USDA.
Frozen, noncarbonated juices and drinks—a category that includes frozen orange juice—rose by 1.5% in January from a month earlier, and the 12.4% annual increase is the highest in over a decade. Florida orange growers are harvesting their smallest crop in nearly 90 years, the result of a freeze, two hurricanes and a citrus disease that is laying waste to its groves.
Breakfast cereal increased more modestly in January from a month earlier—just 0.4%—but prices in the category were up 15% over a year, in part because of elevated global grain prices resulting from disruptions related to the war in Ukraine.
Breakfast lovers might be better off just having a cup of coffee—but go with roasted, not instant. Prices for roasted coffee declined by 0.1% last month, but instant coffee rose by a 3.6% monthly increase for instant coffee.

Journal, readlater: feb15 **crazy rough stat: "Where finance represented a few percent of the entire economy in previous decades, it now accounts for roughly 20% of the economy: nothing but churn."**

Finance sells its "services" as *hedges*, but this is merely PR cover for predation. Finance creates no real-world goods or services; it is a structure of exploitation that is more like a criminal syndicate than a sector of the economy.

Given its parasitic, predatory nature, it's not surprising that finance is the primary engine of extreme wealth-income inequality. The fortunes of the few assembled over the past two decades largely trace back to the expansion of debt and leverage (i.e. financialization) which emphasizes marketing as consumption expands not from earnings but from the expansion of debt and leverage.

The problem is parasitic, predatory finance is inherently unstable, as it destabilizes the real economy by distorting every level of regulation and governance and deranges incentives to reward the least civic-minded, the least ethical and the sleaziest self-absorbed gamblers, those who demand a bailout when their *private gains* turn into *private losses*.

We're too big to fail, they whine, and the naive public bought that fraud in 2008-09.

this chart is sort of a fallacy as it assumes all production after the dot-com bubble was "industrial", You'd think what would be considered industrial production would not represent total production value, as the world has

shifted from an industrial economy to a data driven economy. But I could be wrong because I don't know if that industrial production is including big tech, or at least properly representing it in the data discrepency seen in the chart present below, where the presenter is attempted to show the divergance of market value from true value by showing industrial production flatlining compared the stock market. Is inddustrial production fully representing total production? If it was, then yes, the chart would be very meaningful. But we don't klnow that, and I have strong susp[icions that it is not. But anyways, here it is

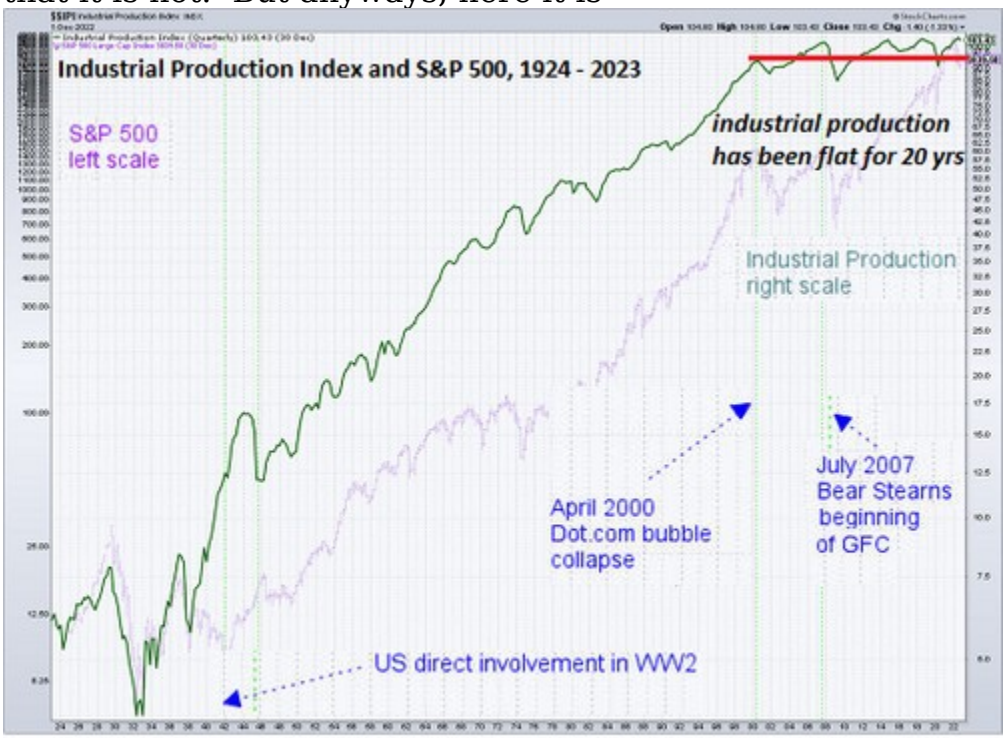
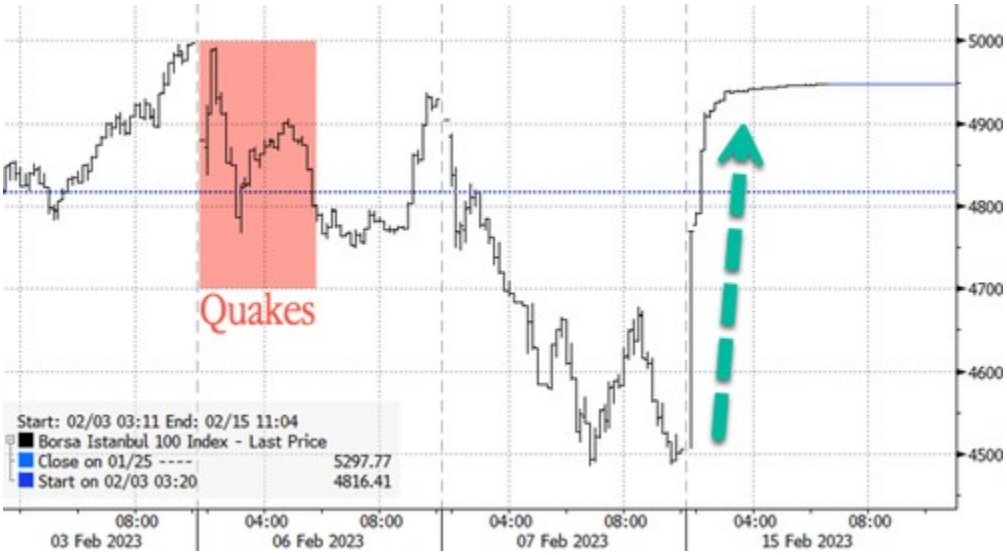


chart courtesy of David E. notes in black by www.oftwominds.com

Markets, government, stats, jurnal, readlater; this is a great, real life example of how government intervention can change the markets. Everything was in freefall, then they give the announcement, but ins tead

Turkey Soar On State Support As Quake Deaths Surpass 40,000



We get this..

The Borsa Istanbul 100 Index jumped 9.82% today, as the main equity benchmark recovered much of its losses since the twin earthquakes rocked the country's southeast region on Feb. 6.

After a week-long suspension, Turkish stocks soared Wednesday after the country's sovereign wealth fund supported financial markets to prevent further declines following last week's twin earthquakes. The death toll in Turkey and neighboring Syria has surpassed 40,000.

Here are the top headlines via Bloomberg of the intervention to save financial markets:

- *Turkey Stocks Surge as State Support Underwrites Reopening Boost*
- *Turkey Injects Billions of Liras to Prop Up Stocks Before Open*
- *Turkey Wealth Fund to Support Equities With New Mechanism*
- *Turkey Set to Temporarily Suspend Some Gold Imports*
- *Turkey Plans Tax Waiver for Share Buybacks on Stock Exchange*

War, Russia, government: feb15 **Truck Overturns In Arizona, Spills Nitric Acid, Triggers Shelter-In-Place Alert**

An emergency shelter-in-place was issued, then dropped, **and then re-issued on Wednesday** for nearby residents in Tucson after a truck carrying nitric acid overturned on Feb. 14, **killing the driver** and triggering a hazmat warning.

Residents were warned to avoid the area and seek alternate routs of travel, while anyone within a one-mile perimeter of the incident has been instructed to turn off air conditioning and heaters in order to avoid bringing in outside air.

Shelter in Place Alert Issued

The Arizona Department of Transport (DOT) announced the crash around 3 p.m. local time. By 5:09 p.m., the Arizona DPS said the tanker was leaking hazardous material.

“Interstate 10 remains closed in both directions between Rita and Kolb roads in Tucson,” per the Arizona DPS. “Motorists should continue to avoid the area and seek an alternate route.” The DPS added in a Twitter post: “We anticipate an extensive closure. Please avoid the area.”

Meanwhile, the Arizona DOT said that there is “no estimated time to reopen the road.”

Africa, war: feb15 **At Least 32 Civilians Killed in DR Congo, Says the UN**

At least 32 civilians have been killed by rebel groups in eastern Congo’s Ituri province, said a spokesman for the United Nations.

Twenty people were killed by the militia group CODECO and a dozen were killed by the Allied Democratic Forces, which is allied to the Islamic State group, U.N. spokesman Stephane Dujarric said in a press conference on Monday.

Calling the situation “confusing,” Dujarric said it is hard for the U.N. peacekeeping mission in Congo to get more information due to restricted movement in the area.

Fighting between CODECO, a loose association of various ethnic Lendu militia groups, and Zaire, a mainly ethnic Hema self-defense group, has been ongoing since 2017 but has worsened recently. At least 32 civilians were killed by CODECO last month, say local officials. In December, the United Nations said the insurgent group was expanding its areas of control, attacking civilians and Congo’s military, and taxing communities in the areas that it holds.

The killings come amid surging violence across eastern Congo, where conflict has been simmering for decades as more than 120 armed groups are fighting in the region, most for land and control of mines with valuable minerals, while some groups are trying to protect their communities.

Stats, war, government: feb15 **Australia Removes Chinese-Made Cameras From Politicians' Offices**

War, Erdogan, energy, government: feb15 **US to Sell Another 26 Million Barrels of Oil From Strategic Oil Reserve**

Yet according to a new Reuters report, the Department of Energy had announced it would conduct the sale of the 26 million barrels. This, Reuters noted in its report, would push the SPR even lower than it already is, which is the lowest in 40 years.

The reason for the low levels of the country's strategic petroleum reserve is the 180-million-barrel sale that President Biden mandated last year in a bid to reduce exorbitant retail fuel prices resulting from the global oil price rally, itself a market reaction to Russia's invasion of Ukraine and the consequent barrage of sanctions the collective West unleashed on it.

The additional sales, contrary to many expectations, did the job, not least because oil prices themselves began to decline after the initial jump amid the heightened geopolitical uncertainty. Yet worry began to emerge about the state of the SPR and when it would be replenished.

The administration announced a range of between $67 and $72 per barrel, at which it would begin buying crude to refill the SPR but prices have not declined to those levels since last year.

By Charles Kennedy for Oilprice.com

War, Erdogan: feb15 **Turkish Opposition Doesn't Want to Delay the Elections**

Iraq Asks US to Replace Russian Mi-17 Helicopters With American Aircraft Due to Spare Parts Shortage

War, erdgan, stats: feb15 **First UN team since quake crosses into rebel-held Syria**

More..

Damascus Opens New Border Crossings as Militants Obstruct Aid Efforts

The Syrian government has officially opened two new border crossings in northern Syria in order to provide earthquake relief aid to people in opposition-held territory, Deputy Head of the Russian Reconciliation Center, Major General Oleg Yegorov, said at a briefing on 13 February.

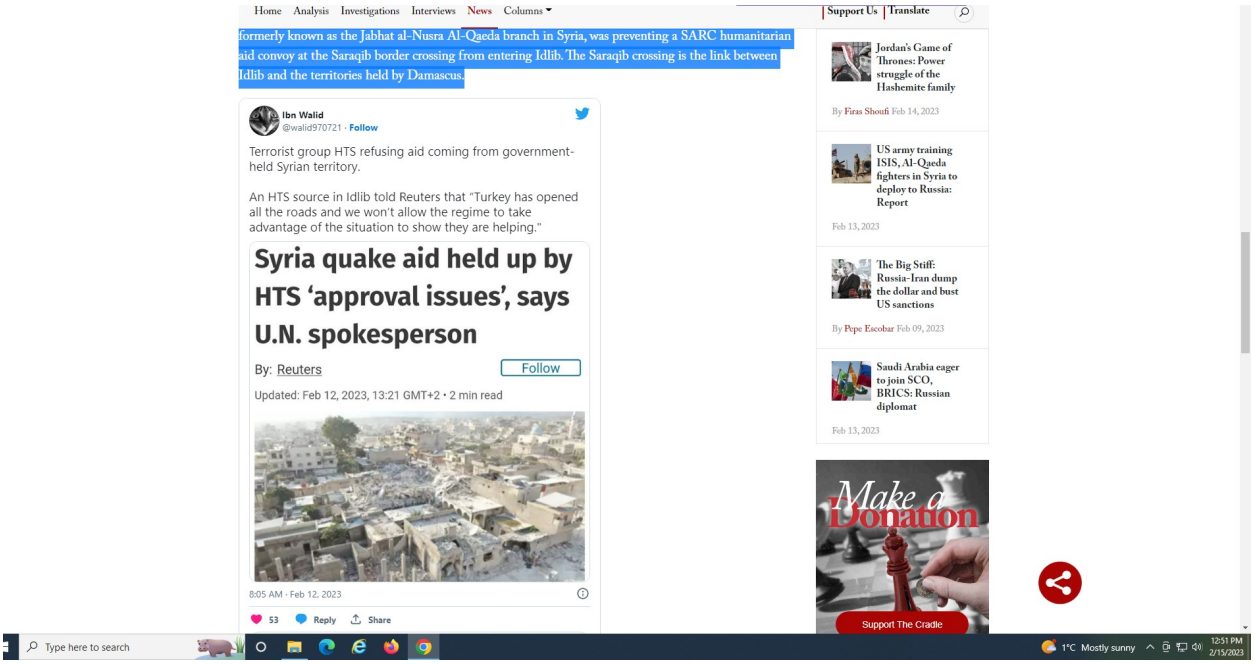
“In compliance with President Bashar al-Assad’s instructions in the interest of delivering assistance to affected people in territories not controlled by the Syrian government, checkpoints have been unilaterally opened in Saraqib and Abu Azeidin. Convoys with humanitarian cargoes, which include food products, heating devices, and tents … are ready to set off for the affected areas escorted by representatives of the Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC),” Yegorov said.

Yegorov’s statement followed high-level talks between Assad and UN aid chief Martin Griffiths in Damascus on the same day, during which the Syrian president agreed to open the crossings.

“It’s going to make a big difference. We are now using just one crossing,” a UN spokesman told media in reference to the Bab al-Hawa crossing with Turkiye.

While western media outlets have attempted to pin the hindered aid delivery efforts to northwestern Syria on “the Assad government’s mismanagement and refusal to engage with all areas,” it appears to be armed groups who have impeded humanitarian efforts.

On 12 February, a UN spokesman told media that the Hayat Tahrir al-Sham (HTS) extremist group, formerly known as the Jabhat al-Nusra Al-Qaeda branch in Syria, was preventing a SARC humanitarian aid convoy at the Saraqib border crossing from entering Idlib. The Saraqib crossing is the link between Idlib and the territories held by Damascus.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formerly known as the Jabhat al-Nusra Al-Qaeda branch in Syria, was preventing a SARC humanitarian aid convoy at the Saraqib border crossing from entering Idlib. The Saraqib crossing is the link between Idlib and the territories held by Damascus.
Ibn Walid
@walid970721 · Follow
Terrorist group HTS refusing aid coming from government-held Syrian territory.
An HTS source in Idlib told Reuters that “Turkey has opened all the roads and we won't allow the regime to take advantage of the situation to show they are helping.”
Syria quake aid held up by HTS ‘approval issues’, says U.N. spokesperson
By: Reuters
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Feb 13, 2023
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2/15/2023

That day, an HTS source was quoted as saying that the group “won’t allow the regime to take advantage of the situation to show they are helping,” despite Damascus having openly announced its intention to provide aid to all areas of Syria. The following day, HTS leader Abu

Muhammad al-Julani claimed during a press conference that his group “does not have teams ready to secure these deliveries.” This was seen by many as HTS’ outright refusal and rejection of any aid deliveries coming from government territory to the opposition-held north, given that Jolani failed to provide a proper explanation as to why this aid could not make its way through.

“There is no need to dispatch our technical teams to bring aid in from regime territory … The Bab al-Hawa crossing is there … For those who want to help, Bab al-Hawa is open, God willing,” the former Nusra emir said, despite the fact that the Bab al-Hawa crossing was badly damaged in the earthquake.

During Monday’s briefing, Yegorov added that the “lack of security guarantees on territories controlled by illegal armed groups complicates the delivery of assistance to those affected by the earthquake, who are in dire straits.”

In a since-deleted news article by Syrian outlet *North Press Agency* (NPA) released on 14 February, NPA cites an exclusive source as saying that a day earlier, international organizations suspended their operations and withdrew from the town of Soran in the northern Aleppo countryside after members of the Turkish-backed militant coalition, the Syrian National Army (SNA) looted a humanitarian aid delivery. As a result, ‘clashes erupted’ between the militants and the town’s inhabitants.

Stats, government: feb15 Indonesia's 'Trial of the Century' Ends in Death Sentence for Head of Internal Affairs Department

Medan, Indonesia – Indonesia’s so-called “trial of the century” has concluded with a senior police officer sentenced to death for the murder of his bodyguard.

Ferdy Sambo, the former head of Indonesia’s Internal Affairs department and a two-star general, was handed the death penalty on Monday by Chief Justice Wahyu Imam Santoso for the killing of his aide-de-camp, Police Brigadier Nofriansyah Yosua Hutabarat, in a case widely seen as a litmus test of police accountability in Indonesia.

Feb. 15 Marks 34th Anniversary of Soviet Withdrawal From Afghanistan

Kyrgyzstan to Host Russia-Led Defense Bloc Drills

Quake Death Toll Passes 40,000 in Turkey, Syria

Islam, stats, censorship, middle east: Florists with wilting bouquets of red roses and street vendors clutching unsold balloons were heartbroken in the Afghan capital on Tuesday after the Taliban's morality police banned Valentine's Day celebrations.

Florists with wilting bouquets of red roses and street vendors clutching unsold balloons were heartbroken in the Afghan capital on Tuesday after the Taliban's morality police banned Valentine's Day celebrations.

While Valentine's Day has never been widely celebrated in Afghanistan, some well-off residents in cities have developed a tradition of marking the lovers' day in recent years.

In Kabul's famed Flower Street, shops were full of heart-shaped garlands and red stuffed animals, but hopelessly empty of customers.

In the window of one outlet, a poster signed off by the Ministry for the Promotion of Virtue and Prevention of Vice warned shoppers: "Avoid celebrating lovers' day!"

The poster said Valentine's Day "is not Islamic and is not part of the Afghan culture but a sloganeering day of the infidels".

"Celebrating the day of lovers is showing sympathy to the Christian Pope," it read.

Officers from the ministry patrolled the area in their white uniforms, trailed by an armed escort, an AFP correspondent reported.

Kneeling in front of his shop, Omar -- who did not share his surname -- pruned thorns and withered petals from his stock of flowers.

"[The Taliban authorities] published and distributed their order to every shop," he told AFP.

"I don't think I could sell these flowers today, people aren't buying," he said.

"You can see we have no customers -- the situation is very bad."

An AFP reporter saw a young couple furtively buy flowers and quickly leave the scene when they saw the morality police patrol.

"The situation has changed -- we can't celebrate it like other years," said browsing shopper Zahrah, married for seven years.

"But we do celebrate it. There are some restrictions and the situation is not good, but we celebrate it at home."

Afghan men are reflected on the glass of a gift shop along Flower Street in Kabul

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The vice ministry could not be reached for comment on the exact nature of the ban.

The Taliban authorities have issued various restrictions on social life in the country since they came to power in August 2021.

Music, social media apps and video games have all come under scrutiny by the ultra-conservative government.

The authorities have particularly cracked down on Afghan women, effectively squeezing them out of public life.

Journal, readlater, middle east, war: feb15 UNICEF: Hundreds of Afghan Children Died in January Due to Cold Weather, Illness (add vs ther countries)

Tech, ai, war: feb15 **Dutch Host First Summit on 'Responsible' Use of AI in Military**

AMSTERDAM (Reuters) - Delegations from both the United States and China are set to attend a summit on the "responsible" use of artificial intelligence (AI) in the military this week in the Netherlands, the first of its kind.

Middle east, iran, war: **US Says There're 'No Discussions' on Reviving Iran Deal feb15 Stoltenberg: Finland, Sweden Could Join NATO Separately**

Iran, China Sign 20 Cooperation Agreements in Beijing

Russia Denies Claims It Plans to Destabilize Moldova

Putin Talks to Azerbaijan President, Discusses Disputed Southern Caucasus Region

Norway to Donate Eight Leopard 2 Tanks to Ukraine

Austria Refuses to Train Ukrainian Soldiers on Leopard Tanks

Journal, stats, government, war: feb15 Actual example of people, to steal a quote from Nathan Rothchild “buying land when there is blood on the streets”. Yes, today, JPM is literalluy offering investors the ability to profit off of the destruction of the Ukraine. But only for certain private clients, of course, as their will likely be a minimum buy-in.

INVESTMENT · Published February 12, 2023 5:42pm EST
JP Morgan reaches agreement with Ukraine's Zelenskyy on rebuilding infrastructure, presents Patriots jersey
J.P. Morgan believes attracting private capital will be key to Ukraine's ability to fight off Russian aggression
By Charlie Gasparino | FOXBusiness
Ad 1 of 1
Success?
by fiverr.com
Go Get It
00:58
Markets
Quotes displayed in real-time
Search stocks, ETFs and more
DOW JONES AVERAGES (I:DJI)
33,995.43
-93.84 (-0.28%)
NASDAQ COMPOSITE INDEX (I:COMP)
11,917.24
-42.90 (-0.36%)
S&P 500 (SP500)
4,115.89
-20.24 (-0.49%)

priceless: JPM announces it will be offering private clients--usually handled by divisions known as "private-banks" which tailor to ultra-high income investors--the opportunity to literally "buy land when there is blood on the streets" through special investment fund that plans to assist in the rebuilding efforts for the country

"J.P. Morgan, the nation's largest bank, has signed a memorandum of understanding with Ukraine's president Volodymyr Zelenskyy with the eye on attracting private capital for a new investment fund to rebuild Ukraine's infrastructure that has been destroyed in its war with Russia, FOX Business has learned.

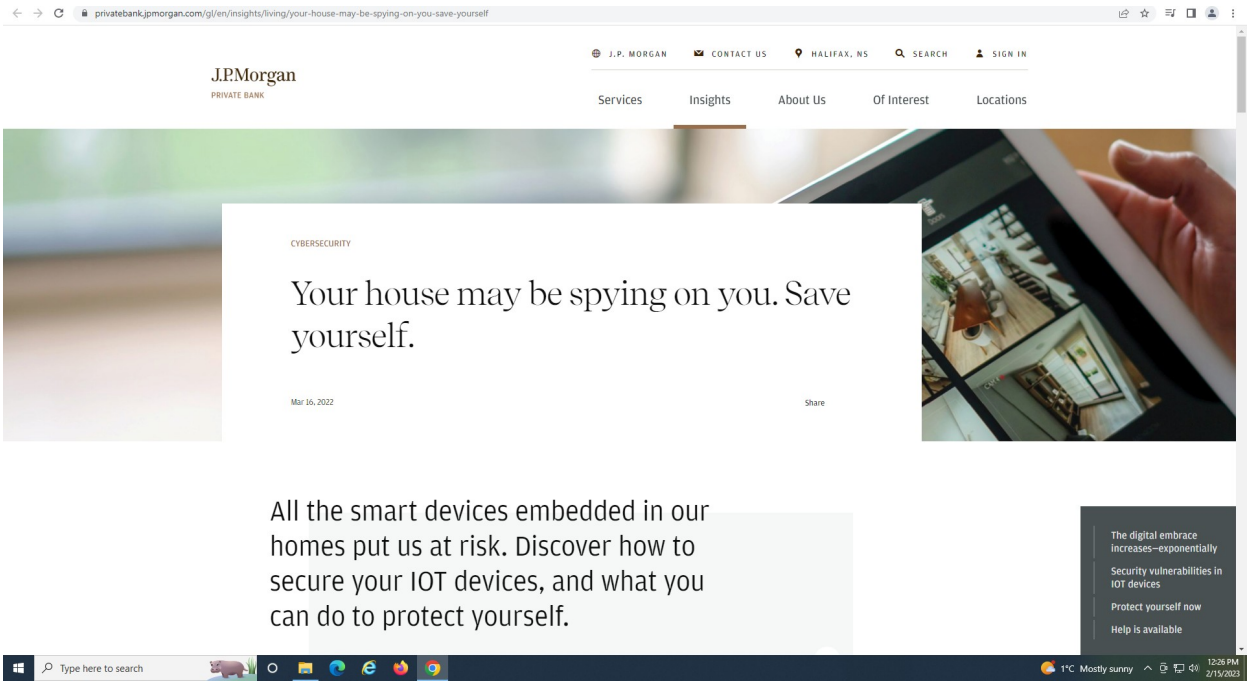
J.P. Morgan bankers spent most of last week meeting with Zelenskyy and his senior staff in Ukraine where they discussed the creation of a fund seeded with $20 billion to $30 billion in private capital, according to people with direct knowledge of the matter.

Other ideas discussed with the Ukrainian president were the creation of a bank administered by Wall Street firms that would make investments in oil refineries, roads, bridges and other pieces of economic infrastructure destroyed in Vladimir Putin's year-long campaign to annex the country and rebuild the old Soviet Union, these people add."

J.P. Morgan bankers were on the ground in Kyiv and other cities, dodging bombs, and witnessing firsthand how the war has crippled the country’s economy. After a series of meetings with various ministers, they met directly with Zelenskyy on Friday night. As a gesture of goodwill on the eve of Sunday's Super Bowl, the bankers also presented Zelenskyy with a New England Patriots jersey with the number "91," to signify the year Ukraine gained independence from the old Soviet Union, these people say.

"Ukraine’s reconstruction will have a huge price tag, with the World Bank estimating in December that it could cost between 500 and 600 billion euros ($525 billion-$630 billion). Last July, Ukrainian officials estimated the “recovery plan” will cost about $750 billion. As the war goes on and more of Ukraine is destroyed, the price tag will increase."

Stats, government, censorship, tech, ai, journal: feb15 **jpm's private banking division warns their clients that their house…….could be spying on them…**



CYBERSECURITY

Your house may be spying on you. Save yourself.

Mar 16, 2022

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All the smart devices embedded in our homes put us at risk. Discover how to secure your IOT devices, and what you can do to protect yourself.

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Close

The seemingly benign digital devices we have in our homes may actually threaten our well-being.

Already the average U.S. household now has more than 10 internet-connected devices in residence, and that number is rapidly growing—both in the United States and across the globe.[1] Indeed, by 2023, it is estimated there will be three times more networked devices on the planet than humans.[2]

Yet all these new “smart devices,” including fitness equipment, digital personal assistants, gaming consoles, thermostats and security cameras, etc., can potentially endanger not only our privacy and physical safety, but our finances as well. Just think: Even President Biden’s connected exercise bike had to be modified so it would not endanger U.S. national security.

Of course, no one is likely to give up the digital gadgets that make life easier and fun. But it is wise for all of us to recognize there’s a new and urgent need to guard the door into our lives that internet-enabled devices prop open.

The digital embrace increases—exponentially

How many internet-connected devices do you have at home right now? Don’t just count the televisions, gaming consoles, computers, printers, laptops, tablets, phones, digital watches, digital personal assistants, music systems and nanny cams.

We also have to keep an eye on the ever-growing list of internet-enabled devices that help make our homes a Sanctuary. That includes security systems and all the smart devices installed in our homes: refrigerators and vacuums as well as lighting, thermostats, and yes, workout equipment.

In fact, property technology, or “PropTech,” is already a new category in the world of real estate. Smart home technology has even become standard in some upscale homes and multi-family dwellings.

Security vulnerabilities in IOT devices

How dangerous might these devices be to you and your family?

Your digital conveniences—fitness and health data, home entertainment systems, energy usage, voice recordings and sites you access—all can be used to build a profile of you and your family that criminals can leverage to commit financial fraud, privacy invasions and even home break-ins, both physical and cyber.

You might not have even been aware you signed terms and conditions to allow these devices to listen, collect usage data and allow manufacturers to sell or share your information with third parties.

Cybercriminals can put even the most innocent-seeming devices to nefarious uses:

- A home thermostat could reveal you are not at the house during the week and only home on the weekends when the temperature has been remotely set higher.
- A smart vacuum can create a map of your home layout and share the data back to the manufacturers, potentially giving insights to thieves.
- Fitness equipment could be used to listen to your conversations, as well as capture and share your personal health information.

Protect yourself now

It’d be natural to think that internet connectivity is so woven into our daily lives that there is little you can do—or to despair, thinking that meaningful action would require hours of your time or a tech-obsessed teenaged child. Not so. There are some simple things you can do fairly quickly.

First, we recommend that you have at least two separate networks in your home. Use one for all your business, sensitive transactions and remote work. Dedicate a separate network for less sensitive transactions, for instance, your children's or parents’ online activities, schoolwork, family entertainment and social media. If you have a highly connected home, consider adding a third network, possibly solely for smart devices.

Next, and it cannot be stressed how important this simple step remains: Make sure your passwords are complicated, changed regularly, and different across devices and networks. Consider using a reputable password manager to help you securely manage all those usernames and passwords.

Put a webcam cover on your computers, laptops, tablets and fitness equipment when you’re not using their cameras. And be sure to put your devices on “mute” when you’re not using them.

Avoid adding new smart devices to your home network without professional input, as correct device set up is as critical as device security. And, before you move into a new home, find out what sort of internet-enabled devices may be built into them.

Help is available

You do not have to tackle the challenge of your digital life alone. While President Biden obviously has top security professionals watching his digital back, you can enlist the help of experts too. Many reputable firms can help you with both installation and security upkeep.

You also can contact your J.P. Morgan team to learn more about our cybersecurity and fraud awareness programs, or to schedule a session with our cybersecurity experts.

And you can stay aware of the latest trends and protection measures you might take by simply visiting our Cybersecurity and Fraud Prevention Hub on a regular basis. To understand how you can more securely utilize the various “smart devices” in your home, reach out to your J.P. Morgan team for a list of best practices on keeping your Internet of Things (IoT) and smart devices secure.

The world of home tech is changing rapidly. Keep you and your family safe.

Find out more about cybersecurity and fraud prevention

[1] Statista, "Average number of connected devices residents have access to in the U.S. households in 2020", February 2022

[2] RCR Wireless, “Connected devices will be 3x the global population by 2023, Cisco says” February 2020

- Lifestyle
- Cybersecurity
- Life Events
- Fraud

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

This information is provided for educational and informational purposes only and is not intended, nor should it be relied upon, to address every aspect of the subject discussed herein. The information provided in this document is intended to help clients protect themselves from cyber fraud. It does not provide a comprehensive listing of all types of cyber fraud activities and it does not identify all types of cybersecurity best practices. You, your company or organization is responsible for determining how to best protect itself against cyber fraud activities and for selecting the cybersecurity best practices that are most appropriate to your needs.

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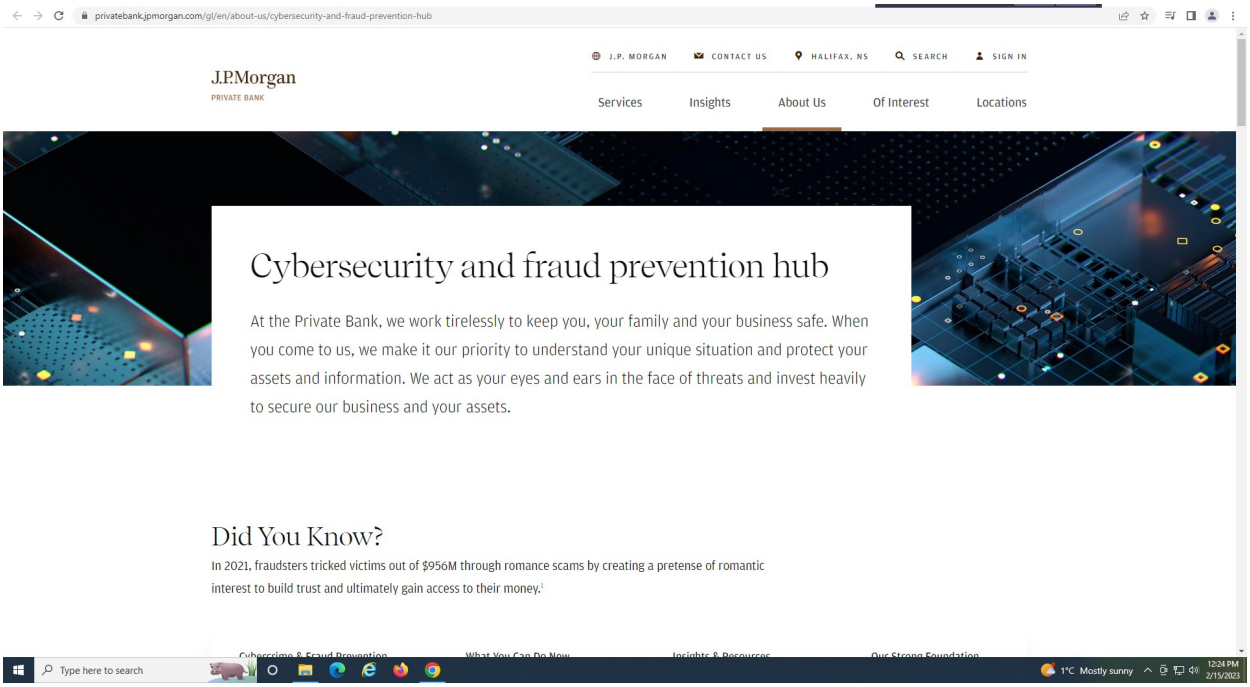
Stats: feb15 **In 2021, fraudsters tricked victims out of $956M through romance scams by creating a pretense of romantic interest to build trust and ultimately gain access to their money, according to the cybersecurity section of jpm's private banking divisions website..**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At the Private Bank, we work tirelessly to keep you, your family and your business safe. When you come to us, we make it our priority to understand your unique situation and protect your assets and information. We act as your eyes and ears in the face of threats and invest heavily to secure our business and your assets.
Did You Know?
In 2021, fraudsters tricked victims out of $956M through romance scams by creating a pretense of romantic interest to build trust and ultimately gain access to their money.
Type here to search
1°C Mostly sunny
12:24 PM
2/15/2023

Dating or defrauding? What to know about romance scams

Feb 13, 2023

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With Valentine’s Day upon us, it is the opportune time for fraudsters to strike. Explore how you can protect your loved ones from an online attraction that could ultimately be a scam.

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Marlene Ruiz, Global Fraud Awareness

Nadia Manara, Global Fraud Awareness

Online dating apps have made it so much easier to make a connection. But scammers are also online—preying on people's desire to meet *the one* and tricking them into cyber sweetheart relationships while draining their funds.

Since the pandemic, romance scams have steadily increased, according to a recent report by the U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI).[1] Many scams disproportionately target individuals over 60, who represented 32% of all victims in 2021; individuals in the 30–50-plus age group embodied approximately 15%.

How the scams play out

A typical romance scam begins with the creation of a fake online identity. Once the fraudster makes a connection with a potential target, they endeavor to appear genuine, caring and attentive. Usually, the relationship evolves very quickly as the scammer seeks to gain the target's trust, paving the way for fraud to occur.

The first red flag may be a request for funds. Often, fraudsters will fabricate a reason to ask for money—and if they sense vulnerability, the amount may increase with each request. Common inducements are: paying for medical emergencies, travel expenses (supposedly to visit), or investment opportunities. Once their victims agree to send money, fraudsters specify how they wish to receive the funds. Requests for payment via wire transfers, payment apps or cryptocurrencies are typical.

Fraudsters exploit the premise of the relationship in an attempt to trick victims—and a significant amount of money may be at risk. According to the latest FBI report, in 2021, victims of online confidence fraud and romance scams

reported more than $956 million in losses, a 60% increase over 2020—and a 101% increase since 2019.[2]

Five ways to protect your loved ones

1. **Conduct due diligence.** Look into the identity of any individual who approaches you or a family member online.

2. **Be instinctual.** Pay attention to red flags, such as inconsistencies in information shared, excuses to not meet in person—or via video chat—and especially any requests for money or information about the value of financial holdings. Be wary if things seem too good to be true.

3. **Safeguard personal information.** Don’t answer probing questions about financial circumstances, and never share details such as bank account numbers, trusted contact details or login credentials.

4. **Protect assets.** Do not send any money anywhere without a thorough review of the person who is going to receive it. Safeguard financial accounts—and encourage your family members to do so, too—by creating strong login credentials and enabling notification alerts about any unauthorized activity.

5. **Reduce exposure.** Help your loved ones minimize their digital profiles: Details shared on social media and online platforms may give fraudsters enough information to target and trick.

Remember, fraudsters count on the power of shame to prevent their victims from reporting romantic scams. Assure any family member or friend who may be the victim of romantic deception that they are not alone—and have nothing to be embarrassed about. Many people do find love through online connections. But it’s like dating in any setting: Take it slow and verify before you trust.

We can help

If you believe you (or your loved ones) may have been targeted in any kind of online scam, freeze your credit and speak with your J.P. Morgan team immediately.

[1]The U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigation, 2021 Internet Crime Report. Data as of March 2022.

War, Russia: feb14 **China Says US Sent 10 Balloons Over Its Territory**

Yes, it is the DPP that puts partisan interests over everything, creating obstacles in people's daily lives. After coming to power in 2016, they immediately tore apart the agreement with the mainland on maintaining direct flights, mail, and business ties. As a result, families were torn apart, communication hindered and normal business activities curbed.

https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202302/14/WS63eac373a31057c47ebae8b4.html

War, Erdogan: feb14 nikkei, u.s shuts down key naval base due to concerns of earthquake activity: "The statement explained the decision was related to a recently conducted seismic assessment, which identified the possibility of a large-scale earthquake occurring while a submarine was under maintenance at the shipyard."

INDO-PACIFIC

Earthquake outweighs China in U.S. Navy's decision to close docks

Submarine maintenance put on hold as seismic concerns are addressed

The Ohio-class ballistic missile submarine USS Alabama (SSBN 731) is seen docked at Naval Base Kitsap's Delta Pier, at the Trident Refit Facility in Bangor, Washington. © U.S. Navy

KEN MORIYASU, Nikkei Asia diplomatic correspondent February 8, 2023 13:00 JST

TOKYO -- The samurai, merchants and villagers living on Japan's east coast were puzzled on one January day in 1700 when a tsunami hit their towns. There was no associated earthquake in Japan that seemed to have triggered the devastating waves.

History books recorded the incident as the "orphan tsunami."
It wasn't until 300 years later, in the 1990s, that the orphan tsunami was linked to its parent: a magnitude-9.0 earthquake that hit the U.S. Pacific Northwest on Jan. 26, 1700, some 8,000 kilometers away.
Now, fears of another giant earthquake occurring in similar waters have forced the U.S. Navy to suspend operations at four key dry docks in Washington state.
The Navy has announced that it will temporarily halt operations at three dry docks in Puget Sound Naval Shipyard & Intermediate Maintenance Facility -- including dry dock 6, the only one on the West Coast capable of handling an aircraft carrier. It will also suspend one dry dock at the Trident Refit Facility, Bangor, the primary maintenance facility for the Navy's Pacific-based ballistic missile submarine (SSBN) fleet.
Together, the closures at the Pacific Northwest's largest naval shore facility will hamper the country's ability to provide

maintenance for its nuclear-powered submarines and aircraft carriers.

The Navy said in a statement that it will take "additional measures to further ensure the safety of the shipyard workforce, sailors, the local public, the environment and the submarines" in case an earthquake strikes. "We will begin implementing these mitigations immediately and safely return our dry docks to full capacity as soon as possible," Vice Adm. Bill Galinis was quoted as saying.

The U.S. aircraft carrier USS Nimitz departs Dry Dock 6 at the Puget Sound Naval Shipyard & Intermediate Maintenance Facility in Bremerton, Washington, after nine months of maintenance work. © U.S. Navy

The Navy also said the suspensions do not affect the nation's strategic deterrent capability or the ability of the fleet to continue its overall mission. But already with an expanding backlog of vessels awaiting maintenance, this will likely impact the number of combat-ready ships at a time of great power competition with China.

The statement explained the decision was related to a recently conducted seismic assessment, which identified the possibility of a large-scale earthquake occurring while a submarine was under maintenance at the shipyard.

Ever since the Nisqually earthquake hit the southern part of Puget Sound in February 2001, the Navy has been conscious of seismic risks to the shipyard, allocating money to remediation.

But while the quake caused $2 billion in damage, its scale was magnitude-6.8. The real fear is of a magnitude-8 or magnitude-9 earthquake, ultrastrong temblors that have previously occurred in the Cascadia subduction zone.

Earthquakes of such proportions in the Cascadia Subduction Zone are said to have a recurrence interval of about 500 years, plus or

minus 200 years. The last magnitude-9 level earthquake happened on that January evening in 1700.

A potential giant earthquake could trigger a series of large tsunamis and lead to landslides, land subsidence and widespread flooding -- which would have disastrous consequences should a nuclear-powered submarine or carrier be in the dry dock.

"This development is quite troubling, given the already unacceptable backlog in U.S. nuclear submarine maintenance," said Tom Shugart, a former U.S. submariner and an adjunct senior fellow at the Center for a New American Security.

This is especially so, considering the key role submarines play in deterring an increasingly powerful Chinese military, he said.

"I'd like to think that the Navy conducted a holistic assessment of these relative risks -- the likely highly remote risk of an earthquake causing unacceptable damage to a docked submarine or ship, versus the risk of a failure of deterrence of China caused in part by a somewhat hobbled U.S. submarine force," Shugart said.

Blake Herzinger, a former intelligence officer with the U.S. Navy and a nonresident fellow at the American Enterprise Institute, said the Navy will be looking to rectify the loss of dry dock capacity as soon as possible because it will be a "critical gap."

If boats wait longer to go into maintenance, they will be entering dry dock in worse shape, which means they will take longer to get out, Herzinger said.

"The knock-on effect becomes exponential. What used to be six months behind schedule becomes eight months, then 10, then 12. Pretty soon you'll start having submarines breaking because they're not getting maintenance when they should," he said.

The Ohio-class ballistic missile submarine USS Henry M. Jackson (SSBN 730) receives upgrades at the dry dock of the Intermediate Maintenance Facility in Puget Sound. © U.S. Navy

Herzinger noted that the subsurface environment is where the U.S. Navy still has a considerable advantage. "China has invested heavily in intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance capabilities across the western Pacific with particular emphasis on targeting us aircraft carriers with ballistic missiles while they're maneuvering at sea," he said. "Submarine capability effectively neutralizes that Chinese capability."

In the past, the U.S. Navy has operated 13 naval shipyards but many were closed after the end of the Cold War when the defense budget was trimmed in the hope of a "peace dividend."

The U.S. is now down to four public shipyards -- in Norfolk, Virginia; Portsmouth, Maine; Puget Sound, Washington; and Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. All are over 100 years old.

The docks in Washington state are especially important as they prepare the ships that are headed to the western Pacific, where tensions with China lie.

The temporary closure of the dry docks in Washington is not expected to influence U.S. plans to assist Australia in acquiring nuclear-powered submarines.

"This will not affect AUKUS," said Brent Sadler, a senior research fellow at the Heritage Foundation, referring to the security pact between the U.S., U.K. and Australia.

"The construction of nuclear submarines is in Rhode Island and Virginia," Sadler said, pointing to the shipyards run by General Dynamics/Electric Boat and Huntington Ingalls Industries/Newport News Shipbuilding.

War, china, Erdogan: feb14 **TUE FEB 14, AT 2:41 PM 4,039 5 In Sudden Narrative Shift, Pentagon**

Admits Mystery Objects 'Probably' Private Craft Not Tied To Spying

Edward Snowden called it (and so did we)... just a day ago, as we reported: NSA whistleblower Edward Snowden says the **hysteria over UFOs being shot down over America and Canada is a distraction** from Seymour Hersh's story about the U.S. being responsible for blowing up the Nord Stream pipelines.

Less than 24 hours later, on Tuesday, *Bloomberg* reports that "The US government has assessed that three unidentified objects downed since last Friday **were likely for commercial use and not foreign intelligence gathering**."

USA Today: "Little By Little" Russia Is Winning Key Ground War

USA Today raised some eyebrows when it deviated from the usual narrative by acknowledging "little by little" Russia is winning the ground war in a pivotal area of Ukraine, citing a quote given by a pro-Ukraine spokeswoman.

'Little by little they are winning': Tide turns in key Ukraine city: Updates as Russian offensive begins.

Russia gains ground in Bakhmut: 'Little by little they are winning'

The battle for the pivotal city of Bakhmut in Ukraine's eastern Donbas region has seen some of the fiercest fighting of the invasion. Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelenskyy's office said the

situation in Bakhmut's northern suburb of Paraskoviivka was “difficult" amid intense shelling.

Donetsk Gov. Pavlo Kyrylenko said Russian forces appeared to be adding manpower: “We’re seeing a very tough battle in which the Russians aren’t sparing neither themselves nor us.”

Moscow controls both main roads into the city, leaving one back route left – a slender supply line, the BBC reports.

"They have been trying to take the city since July," Iryna Rybakova, press officer for Ukraine's 93rd Brigade, told BBC. "Little by little they are winning now. They have more resources, so if they play the long game they will win. I can't say how long it will take.

"Maybe they will run out of resources. I really hope so."

Moldovan leader urges vigilance, says Russia sought to subvert government

Moldova’s president claimed Monday that Moscow was plotting to overthrow her government with the aid of external saboteurs to put the nation “at the disposal of Russia” and derail its European Union aspirations. President Maia Sandu said her nation's intelligence services had confirmed plans – intercepted by Ukraine – developed by the Russian secret services to destroy Moldova's democracy.

"I want to ask you to stay vigilant, be attentive and trust the official information, as the most aggressive form of attack is the information attack," she said. "The Kremlin’s attempts to bring violence in our country will fail. We should keep calm. We should trust the Republic of Moldova."

Ukraine officials blast former Italian premier Berlusconi

Ukraine officials took former Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi to task Monday after he blamed Zelenskyy for the war. Belusconi, breaking with current Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni on the conflict, said Russia would not have invaded

Ukraine if Zelenskyy “would have ceased attacking the two autonomous republics of Donbas."

Meloni’s office said her government maintains "solid and unwavering" support for Ukraine. Kyiv officials were more dramatic in their dissent.

"Berlusconi's senseless accusations against Zelenskyy are an attempt to kiss Putin's hands, bloodied up to the elbows," Ukrainian Foreign Ministry spokesman Oleg Nikolenko said on Facebook. He accused Berlusconi, a Putin supporter, of trying to "show his loyalty to the Russian dictator."

Keeping Zaporizhzhia or capturing Luhansk? Russian military faces dilemma

While making a push for the entire Donbas region in eastern Ukraine, the Kremlin remains intent on retaining control of the southern Zaporizhzhia province, the British Defense Ministry says in its latest assessment of the war.

The reason is Russia wants to establish a "land bridge'' from its Rostov region to Crimea, the Ukrainian peninsula it illegally annexed in 2014. That land connector would be threatened if Ukraine recaptured Zaporizhzhia.

On the other hand, "Ukrainian success in Luhansk (province) would further undermine Russia’s professed war aim of ‘liberating’ the Donbas,'' the ministry said. "Deciding which of these threats to prioritize countering is likely one of the central dilemmas for Russian operational planners.''

Contributing: The Associated Press

This article originally appeared on USA TODAY: Ukraine updates: Russian offensive begins, tide turns in Bakhmut

Moldovan Airspace Closed On Reports Of Drone Breach As Russia Rejects Coup Accusations; second significant airspace breach in under a week, after a Russian cruise missile fired from

the Black Sea briefly briefly entered Moldovan air space days ago

President Maia Sandu had described an elaborate plan by Russian intelligence to destabilize and collapse the government using color revolution-style tactics. She claimed that Kremlin agents are preparing to flood the country with Russian, Belarusian and Serbian agents provocateurs to steer protests and unrest in order to **"change the legitimate government to an illegal government controlled by the Russian Federation."**

U.S. ‘deeply troubled’ by Israel’s legalizing 9 outposts

“We are deeply troubled by Israel’s announcement that it will reportedly advance thousands of settlements and begin a process to retroactively legalize nine outposts in the West Bank that were previously illegal under Israeli law,” State Department spokesperson Ned Price said in a press briefing on Monday. “Like previous administrations, we strongly oppose these unilateral measures, which exacerbate tensions, harm trusts between the parties, and undermine the prospects for a negotiated two-state solution.”

House Committee Planning Taiwan Trip to 'Infuriate' Beijing

The Chinese Foreign Ministry on Monday said that the US had sent 10 “high-altitude” balloons over its airspace since last year while refuting allegations that the Chinese balloon the US shot down was a surveillance device.

“US balloons have often entered other countries’ airspace illegally. Since last year, US high-altitude balloons have flown over Chinese airspace over ten times without authorization from China. The US needs to reflect on its own behavior and change course rather than attacking others and stoking confrontation,” Foreign Ministry spokesman Wang Wenbin said at a press conference.

Wang didn’t specify whether China thought the balloons were used for surveillance purposes. In response to his comments, the White House said any claims that the US has sent “surveillance balloons” into China were false.

Ai, tech: feb14 **This drone can soar through the skies and swim like a fish underwater**

A research team at the Chinese University in Hong Kong recently demonstrated that, despite giving off an aura of extraterrestrial technology to onlookers, it's not out-of-this-world for objects to traverse between water and air in the blink of an eye.

This remarkable capability was highlighted by videos from various military branches showing Unidentified Aerial Phenomena performing such a feat.

History, tech: **Oldest workshop discovered in Ethiopia, dating back 1.2 million years feb14**

In Melka Kunture, modern-day Ethiopia, a new study ascertained the oldest workshop in human history, dating back to 1,2 million years ago. As stated by the researchers, this workshop includes the production of obsidian bifaces.

The study also suggests that this finding raises the possibility that our ancestors' production of stone objects may have started more than half a million years earlier than the earliest evidence.

"The fact that there were no other types of tools at Simbiro, with the exception of these high-quality obsidian tools, leads us to believe that this was a specialized production site," says Mussi, excavation director since 2011. "In other words, this is a production workshop, the oldest ever known, since those known so far date back no more than 300,000 years".

"These findings highlight a fundamental stage in the development of human intelligence: innovation, which is linked to creativity," said Margherita Mussi. "It is the first example of the development of 'parallel thinking,' which means bringing together knowledge and technical skills previously acquired in other productions."

https://interestingengineering.com/culture/oldest-workshop-dates-back-12-million-years

The study was published in *Nature Ecology&Evolution* on January 19.

A team cracked the Mary, Queen of Scots' hidden message letters

Ai, tech: feb14 **Relativity Space's 3D-printed rocket could finally launch this month**

actual, actualy freezing of bodies for the hope to one day come back to life. Always heard about it, now here's ACTUAL evidence of it happening, and on mass.....WOW

This form of scientific donation has become so popular in most European countries that there are waiting lists at universities willing to accept bodies due to donations—and they're charging fees now too!

Tomorrow Biostasis already has around ten people preserved for training purposes alone. Hundred of others are waiting to be selected with the hope that they can come back to life after they are dead.

Some people just want to get their brains preserved. In case their future selves prefer a 3-D printed body or nobody at all.

The goal of German Doctors

Tech. Eu said that the "standby ambulance" of the business has already been active, with co-founder Emil Kendziorra trying to establish Europe's first cryogenics company.

As soon as someone passes away, Tomorrow Biostasis reacts right away to keep their body and/or brain in a condition of stasis.

https://interestingengineering.com/science/german-doctors-aims-bring-back-dead

read later, ai, tech, stats: Will We Ever Cheat Death and Become Immortal With Mind Uploading?

https://interestingengineering.com/science/cheating-death-and-becoming-immortal-with-mind-uploading

History, ai, tech: feb14 AI helps decipher 2,000-year-old scroll on life after Alexander the Great

AI has entered a scroll.

Thanks to machine learning, a 2,000-year-old damaged scroll on the dynasties that succeeded Alexander the Great could finally be deciphered after it was destroyed alongside Pompeii when Mount Vesuvius erupted in 79 AD.

"It's probably a lost work," Richard Janko, the Gerald F. Else distinguished university professor of classical studies at the University of Michigan, said during a presentation at the joint annual meeting of the Archaeological Institute of America and the Society for Classical Studies, held in New Orleans last month, *Live Science* reported.

Stats, ai, tech: feb14 AI image generator hit by $1.8 trillion lawsuit from Getty Images

The stock image agency claims that over 12 million copyrighted images—along with their descriptions and metadata— were used to train Stable Diffusion, an AI image creator.

"Getty Images Claims Stable Diffusion Has Stolen 12 Million Copyrighted Images. Demands $150,000 For Each Image," AI expert Barsee wrote on Twitter.

"That's nearly $2 trillion, btw, which only makes copyright look ridiculous in the end," he said.

A Twitter user, while replying in the thread of Tweets, said, "AI took their whole business. Instead of innovating, they [Getty Images] are getting salty.

Meanwhile, Images created by Stable Diffusion can replicate the easily recognized Getty watermark, providing damning proof that Stability AI did browse the Getty library.

Impact on how AI image creators

Getty Images has demanded up to $150,000 for each infringement image in addition to the removal of the infringing images and damages for copyright law violations.

Ai, tech: feb14 How CGI has taken animals out of the scene in Hollywood

tech, ai, stats: feb14 **Here's how to create stunning digital AI art in seconds**

I recently took up a short course named **Put the Art in Artificial Intelligence** by Machine Learning Scientist **Jesper Dramsch** and was seriously impressed with AI and its capabilities in terms of how it enables users to create spectacular pieces of art based merely on a set of text-based instructions. Here's an honest review of why this should be a go-to course for newbies or aspiring artists to develop their skills.

Put the art in artificial intelligence: What's it all about?

Imagine ordering someone to create a piece of art or an image and getting it created within the blink of an eye. That would be amazing, right?

That's precisely what Jesper teaches in this course – a basic step-by-step guide on how you can create stunning digital art pieces by using tools that have a very easy learning curve. If you're a beginner, you'll take to these tools as a fish does to water.

The tool we're talking about here is known as Stable Diffusion AI – a platform that creates your artwork based on your prompts. Across the **11 lessons** in this course that span a total of **1 hour and 19 minutes**, you'll learn how to write better prompts to create spectacular art pieces.

Through every stage, you're bound to learn something new. However, apart from the priceless knowledge imparted in the course by Jesper, I liked his focus on three things.

1. Ethics of generative art and AI

As you move forward, you'll come across a lesson where Jesper stresses an important issue about being ethical in the use of AI. The power of AI to create anything out of the smallest figment of human imagination also means it can be used for nefarious purposes. And Jesper means it well when he quotes the famous line from the movie "Spiderman," when he says 'With great power comes great responsibility.'

Jesper sheds light on why it's important to study or take a peek at the models used to train these AI tools. He also mentions specific examples and certain biases in data that may not produce an impartial result. That makes it crucial to study the license, limitations, and biases of any AI tool to make sure we don't create harmful content that's meant to demean any person or community and spread misinformation.

2. What to learn next?

Coming second-to-last in this course, Jesper discusses the exceptional possibilities of AI and how it can be used to repair damaged images or create extensions of artwork about what it could possibly look like. In a nutshell, you can use Stable Diffusion AI to get inspiration when you're creating any artwork for a client.

3. Resource

Jesper also provides a really helpful LookBook that's a brief, abridged version of the video course in text form. It consists of

example images created by AI using different prompt styles, so if you ever need to revise the course, this LookBook will save you time having to go through the lessons all over again.

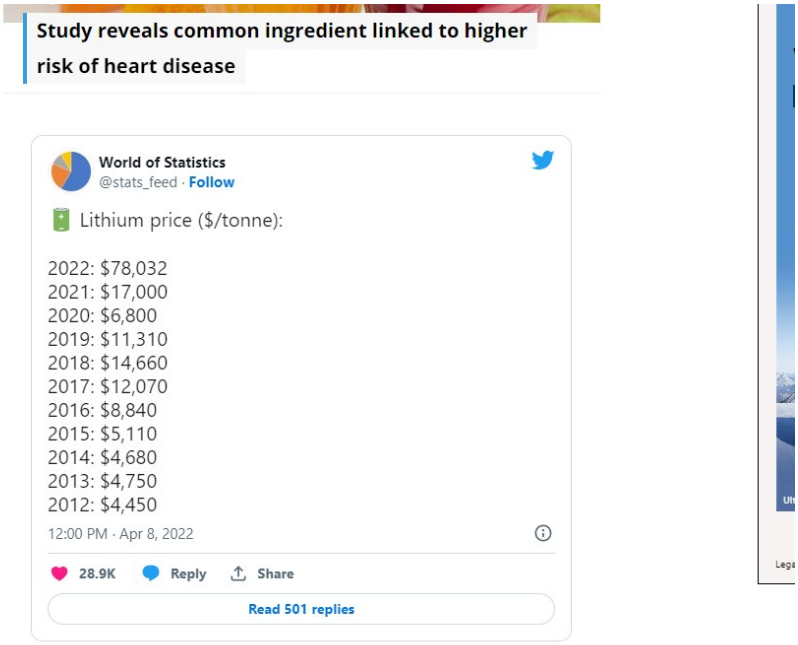
What have people said about this course?

How will this course help you?

Jesper talks about this point as well. Here's a brief on how taking this course will help you in the long run.

- Generating inspiration for physical art pieces
- Generating prototypes for clients
- Breaking the creative block by creating diverse ideas
- Trying a fusion of different art styles to come up with something new
- Get faster iterations of ideas to speed up the decision-making process

War, Russia, government: feb14 Massive lithium reserves found in the Himalayan region of Kashmir


Study reveals common ingredient linked to higher risk of heart disease
World of Statistics
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Lithium price ($/tonne):
2022: $78,032
2021: $17,000
2020: $6,800
2019: $11,310
2018: $14,660
2017: $12,070
2016: $8,840
2015: $5,110
2014: $4,680
2013: $4,750
2012: $4,450
12:00 PM · Apr 8, 2022
28.9K
Reply
Share
Read 501 replies
India's push for cleaner transport
As part of its efforts to cut carbon emissions, India is looking to increase the market share of electric vehicles to 30 percent by the end of this decade. However, the country has been dependent on Australia and Argentina for its lithium needs and has been exploring ways to improve the mineral supply.

Photographer reveals dark side of lithium extraction in South America

Approximately 2.2 million litres of water is needed to produce one ton of lithium.
Approximately 2.2 million litres of water is needed to produce one ton of lithium.

The production of lithium through evaporation ponds uses a lot of water - around 21 million litres per day. Approximately 2.2 million litres of water is needed to produce one ton of lithium.

“The extraction of lithium has caused water-related conflicts with different communities, such as the community of Toconao in the north of Chile,” the FoE report specifies.

Stats, tech, government: feb14 Recycling facilities can now recover nearly all of the cobalt and nickel and over 80% of the lithium from

used batteries and manufacturing scrap left over from battery production

Stats, tech, ai: feb14 Lockheed Martin's new jet was flown by AI for 17 hours in worlds first

In December 2021, during a test flight from California's Edwards Air Force Base, a special Lockheed Martin F-16 fighter jet trainer called the VISTA X-62A became the first tactical aircraft to be controlled by AI.

Amazon hosts a first in Quantum computing: Aquila, a neutral-atom Quantum computer

Amazon has been working on ChatGPT-like AI for a long time, says Amazon CEO

the boutique beats the large clunky organization in cutting-edge. That's marketing theory if I remember correctly. Amazon, as an organization, doesn't is too focused on maintenance now. Lacks the vigor of the new boutique

"Most large, deeply technical companies like ours, have been working on these very large, generative AI models themselves for a long time," Amazon CEO Andy Jassy said.

Microsoft released Bing with ChatGPT-like powers, and the search engine finally looks impressive. In the latest news, Microsoft has started rolling out new Bing early access to waitlisted users. As for Google, Bard failed to show promise after a goof-up during the demo. Employees expressed their disappointment with the "early launch" of Bard and said that the announcement was handled in a "botched" manner.

Is Amazon falling behind in the generative AI race?

Now even though AI and machine learning technology can be found across Amazon Web Services and Amazon's operations (Amazon has voice assistant, Alexa, and code recommendation generator, CodeWhisperer), the company's supporters are concerned that it is trailing behind in the "generative" AI race, *FT* reported.

"Microsoft is clearly in the lead and has won a lot of mindshare here," Matt McIlwain, managing director of Madrona Venture Group, a major, early investor that has worked closely with Amazon over two decades., told *FT*.

'ChatGPT lacks Alexa's personality

Insider reported in January that Amazon employees had used internal Slack channels to enquire about how they should use ChatGPT at work. A company lawyer has asked workers not to share any confidential company data with ChatGPT as responses could look similar to Amazon's internal data. The lawyer told Insider that Amazon is developing similar technology to ChatGPT.

Dave Limp, Amazon's senior vice president for devices and services, told *The Times* that "competition is generally healthy" and dismissed ChatGPT stating that it lacked Alexa's personality, memory, and knowledge of current events.

Stats, government, tech: feb14 **demand for lithium could increase 20 times by 2050.**

Lithium has to scale twenty times by 2050 as automakers face generational challenge

The world will need more than twenty times the amount of lithium than was mined last year to meet demand by mid-century, according to new data from Benchmark Mineral Intelligence, driven by growth in energy storage and electric vehicles. Annual production of 11.2 million tonnes LCE will be needed by 2050 with energy storage making [...]

Tech, ai, stats: feb14 **New methods that make damaged DNA legible are producing stunning revelations about the deep past.**

And the number of ancient human individuals for whom we now have whole-genome data has jumped drastically, from just five in 2010 to 5,550 in 2020.

By indicating that India’s population came from a mix of ancestors, these techniques have undermined the caste system. DNA from a 2,500-year-old battlefield in Sicily has revealed that ancient Greek armies were more diverse than historians depicted.

Old samples can unravel modern health mysteries, too. Last year scientists identified a single mutation that made people 40% likelier to survive the Black Death—and it’s also a risk factor for autoimmune issues like Crohn’s disease.

Differences in how cultures believe human remains should be treated will keep creating ethical and logistical questions for scholars seeking to work with ancient DNA. But its revelations are already rewriting history.

Tech, ai: **read later: What are genome editing and CRISPR-Cas9?**

What are genome editing and CRISPR-Cas9?

Genome editing (also called gene editing) is a group of technologies that give scientists the ability to change an organism's DNA. These technologies allow genetic material to be added, removed, or altered at particular locations in the genome. Several approaches to genome editing have been developed. A well-known one is called CRISPR-Cas9, which is short for clustered regularly interspaced short palindromic repeats and CRISPR-associated protein 9. The CRISPR-Cas9 system has generated a lot of excitement in the scientific community because it is faster, cheaper, more accurate, and more efficient than other genome editing methods.

CRISPR-Cas9 was adapted from a naturally occurring genome editing system that bacteria use as an immune defense. When infected with viruses, bacteria capture small pieces of the viruses' DNA and insert them into their own DNA in a particular pattern to create segments known as CRISPR arrays. The CRISPR arrays allow the bacteria to "remember" the viruses (or closely related ones). If the viruses attack again, the bacteria produce RNA segments from the CRISPR arrays that recognize and attach to specific regions of the viruses' DNA. The bacteria then use Cas9 or a similar enzyme to cut the DNA apart, which disables the virus.

Researchers adapted this immune defense system to edit DNA. They create a small piece of RNA with a short "guide" sequence that attaches (binds) to a specific target sequence in a cell's DNA, much like the RNA segments bacteria produce from the CRISPR array. This guide RNA also attaches to the Cas9 enzyme. When introduced into cells, the guide RNA recognizes the intended DNA sequence, and the Cas9 enzyme cuts the DNA at the targeted location, mirroring the process in bacteria. Although Cas9 is the

enzyme that is used most often, other enzymes (for example Cpf1) can also be used. Once the DNA is cut, researchers use the cell's own DNA repair machinery to add or delete pieces of genetic material, or to make changes to the DNA by replacing an existing segment with a customized DNA sequence.

Genome editing is of great interest in the prevention and treatment of human diseases. Currently, genome editing is used in cells and animal models in research labs to understand diseases. Scientists are still working to determine whether this approach is safe and effective for use in people. It is being explored in research and clinical trials for a wide variety of diseases, including single-gene disorders such as cystic fibrosis, hemophilia, and sickle cell disease. It also holds promise for the treatment and prevention of more complex diseases, such as cancer, heart disease, mental illness, and human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection.
Ethical concerns arise when genome editing, using technologies such as CRISPR-Cas9, is used to alter human genomes. Most of the changes introduced with genome editing are limited to somatic cells, which are cells other than egg and sperm cells (germline cells). These changes are isolated to only certain tissues and are not passed from one generation to the next. However, changes made to genes in egg or sperm cells or to the genes of an embryo could be passed to future generations. Germline cell and embryo genome editing bring up a number of ethical challenges, including whether it would be permissible to use this technology to enhance normal human traits (such as height or intelligence). Based on concerns about ethics and safety, germline cell and embryo genome editing are currently illegal in the United States and many other countries.

Scientific journal articles for further reading

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Russia, sanctions, energy, war: feb14 **Tanker Rates To Haul Gasoline Soar 400% After Russian Sanctions**

Tanker Rates To Haul Gasoline Soar 400% After Russian Sanctions

BY TYLER DURDEN
TUESDAY, FEB 14, 2023 - 07:55 AM

Clean product tanker rates soared last week after the European Union and G-7 nations targeted Russia's petroleum sales. Restrictions on Russian crude exports began in early December. The sanctions have been a ploy by Western countries to limit Russian crude and crude product exports, though it's definitely not working.

Sanctions have redirected Russian energy flows from Europe to Asia. The rejiggering of supply chains means Russia has to rely more on tankers. According to Bloomberg, this has led to a 400% surge in the daily rates for clean product tankers.

The latest data from the Baltic Exchange in London shows clean product tankers rates have reached $55,857 per day, surging 58% just last Thursday.

War, Russia, government: feb14 **Two More Trains Derail Across US After Ohio Catastrophe**

About ten days after a train carrying vinyl chloride derailed and exploded, releasing dangerous chemicals into the air and water near the Ohio-Pennsylvania border, two more trains derailed on Monday alone.

Early Monday morning in East Texas, an 18-wheeler collided with a train. The truck was dragged half a mile down the tracks. The 'accident' derailed 21 cars operated by Union Pacific.

When first responders arrived at the scene, the truck driver was dead, according to Splendora Police Department. The police department said the train was carrying hazardous materials though the crash didn't rupture any tanks.

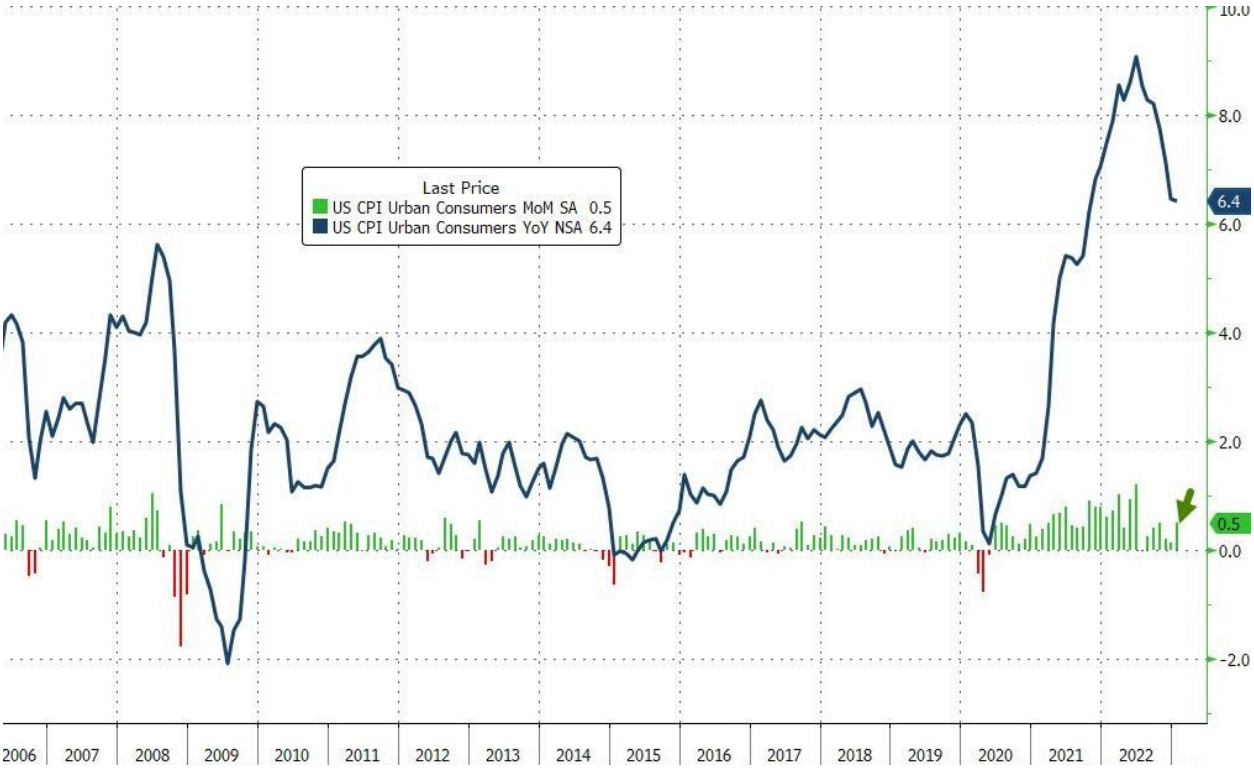
A fourth airborne object which strayed into US airspace on Sunday afternoon over Lake Huron resulted in the Pentagon scrambling a F-16 fighter jet, as these potential balloons have been deemed hazardous to civilian aviation.

But what US defense officials described as an unidentified "octagonal" object wasn't taken down so easily, with the first Sidewinder missile fired from the F-16 reportedly missing its target. Each AIM-9x Sidewinder missile costs the American taxpayers a cool $400,000.

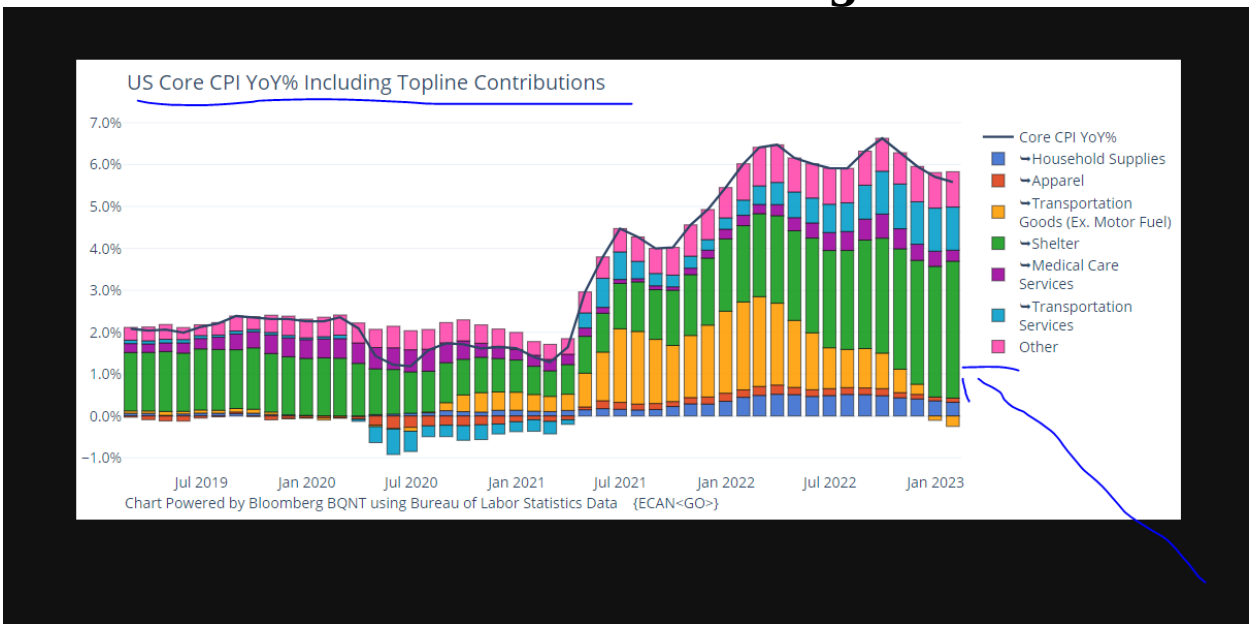
Government, inflation: feb14 **The Layoffs Continue: Ford To Cut 3,800 Workers In Europe**

.the rise in Americans' cost of living outpaced their income gains for the 22nd month in a row...

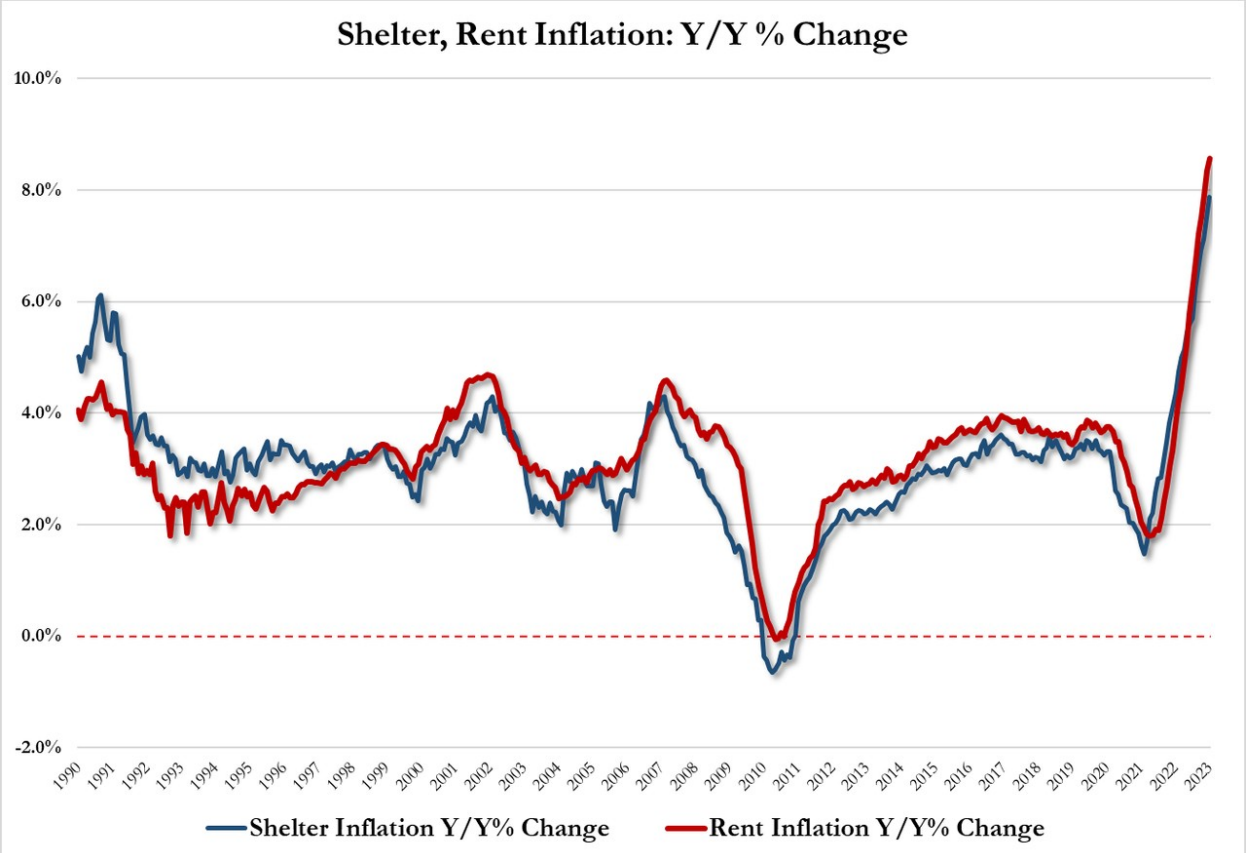
Core CPI Rises 32nd Straight Month, Headline Inflation Hotter Than Expected YoY Driven By Lagging Shelter consensus was for a reaccleration to +0.5% MoM in January and that is what it printed, prompting a hotter than expected +6.4% YoY CPI print

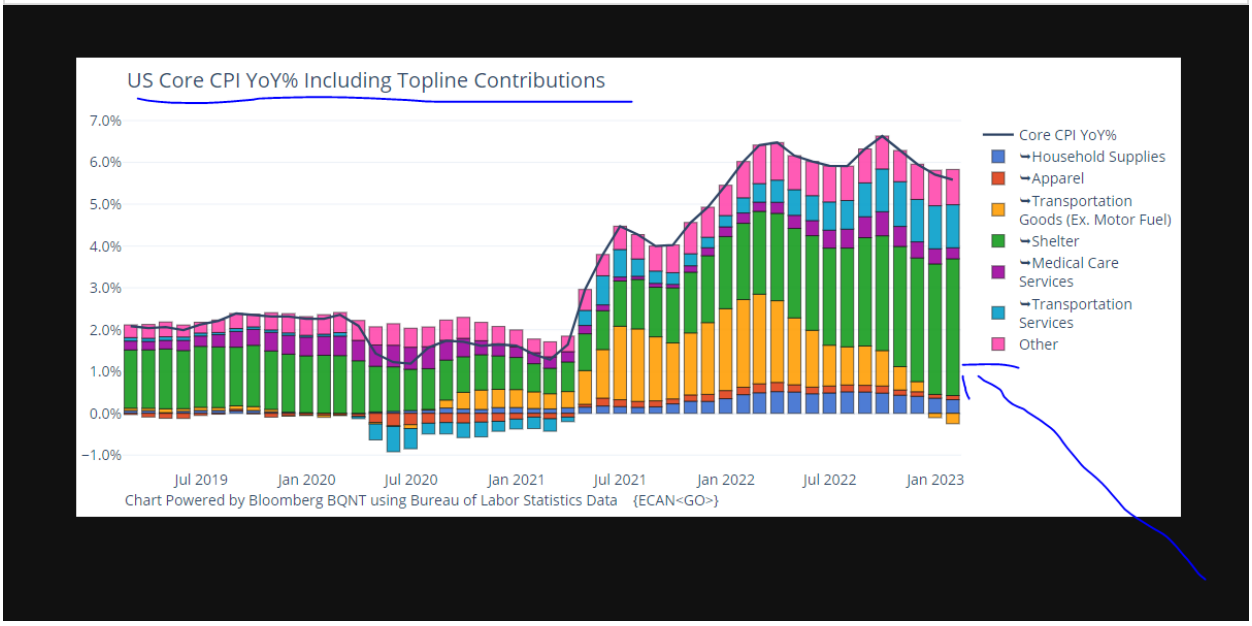


Stats, inflation, journal: feb14 Core CPI was expected to rise 0.4% MoM and printed in line - the 32nd month in a row of rising Core CPI



end of year rent inflation





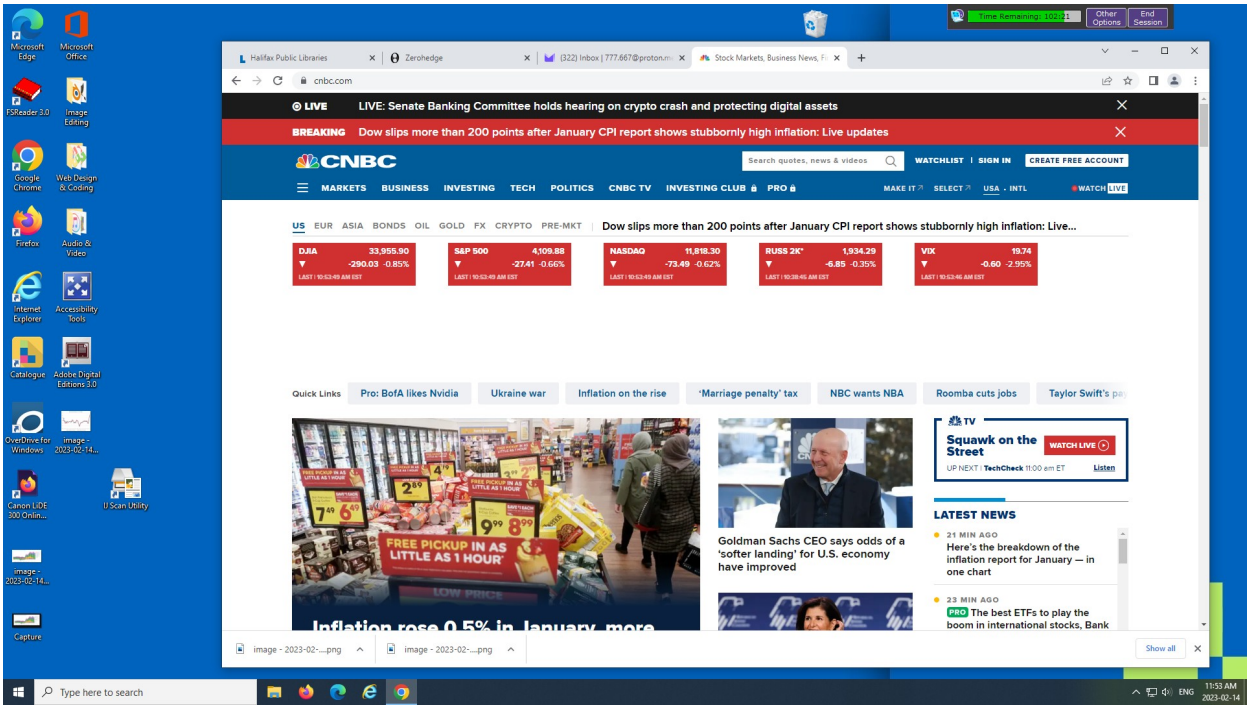
rise in Americans' cost of living outpaced their income gains for the 22nd month in a row (down 1.5% YoY)...

Source: Bloomberg

Just don't forget the economy is "strong as hell".

Services CPI soared to its highest since July 1982 and Goods inflation continues to slow...

Feb14 nice view of the market reaction just by looking at CNBC's front page


LIVE: Senate Banking Committee holds hearing on crypto crash and protecting digital assets
BREAKING Dow slips more than 200 points after January CPI report shows stubbornly high inflation: Live updates
CNBC
MARKETS BUSINESS INVESTING TECH POLITICS CNBC TV INVESTING CLUB PRO
Dow slips more than 200 points after January CPI report shows stubbornly high inflation: Live...
DJIA 33,955.90 -290.03 -0.85%
S&P 500 4,109.88 -27.41 -0.66%
NASDAQ 11,818.30 -73.49 -0.62%
RUSS 2K* 1,934.29 -6.85 -0.35%
VIX 19.74 -0.60 -2.95%
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The best ETFs to play the boom in international stocks, Bank

100 thouusands protestors again, IU guess....protesting netanyuha's literal theocratic 'democracy' and its decidision to allow the country head to elect and dismiss all judges at will , or something. can't remember. just saving the story because it shows that the protests are still occurring, even like more than a mont later..

Israel: 100,000 protest against controversial judicial overhaul

Citizens and MPs gather to denounce plan as ‘the beginning of the end of the State of Israel’

Across the country, businesses closed and an estimated 100,000 people, including schoolchildren, took to the streets, in what Haaretz said was “set to be one of the largest demonstrations in Israeli history”.

More than 80,000 rallied outside the Knesset in Jerusalem. Protesters then walked through the city, blocking roads.

Protesters blocking roads in Jerusalem are confronted by police, on 13 February 2023 (Oren Ziv/MEE)

“We will shake the legs of this corrupt government,” Kema Bresler, founder of the Black Flags protest group, told the crowd, who chanted: “Democracy or rebellion.”

Anat, a protester in her 20s who went to the protest with her friends, told Middle East Eye: “I have come to keep Israel democratic.”

Demonstrators waved Israeli flags and placards that read "Save Israel democracy" and "The whole world is watching".

Another read: “1933 Germany. 2023 Israel? Biden, you can stop it!”

Dana Foss, holding the sign, told MEE: “If the laws are passed, it will be the beginning of the end of the state of Israel.

“In the end there will be a critical mass [of protesters] and they will realise that they cannot ignore us.”

An Israeli protester holds up a sign comparing the rise of authoritarianism in inter-war Germany to that in Israel, on 13 February, 2023 (Oren Ziv/MEE)

Renana Amir, who came with her two elementary school children, said: “This is mainly for the future of the younger generation.”

The plan would give parliament the power to override Supreme Court decisions through a simple majority vote, and de facto control over court nominees, a role currently held by a mixed panel of politicians, judges and bar association members.

It would also limit the court’s ability to bar legislation that infringes on human and civil rights.

Israel has no constitution, and there is little separation between the executive and legislative branches, as governments nearly always hold a majority in the Knesset. This has historically meant the Supreme Court is the most effective check on government power.

Israelis continue weekend protests against Netanyahu's judicial overhaul plans
Read More »

Netanyahu and his allies say the reforms are necessary to correct a power imbalance between elected representatives and the nation's top court, but the plans have drawn fierce opposition from groups including lawyers, and raised concerns among business leaders, widening already deep political divisions in Israeli society.

Israel's Channel 12 news released a poll on Saturday revealing that 62 percent of Israelis want the proposed judicial plans to be either paused or halted altogether. Hundreds of thousands have demonstrated across the country since they were announced.

US President Joe Biden and French President Emmanuel Macron have both voiced concern about the overhaul.

Israeli economists have warned the plan has already damaged the country's finances. Numerous businesses gave staff the day off to protest, even arranging shuttle buses.

Employees from the country's booming tech industry were among the demonstrators.

"Most of the industry is funded from outside the country, and we don't want to live in a place where the brainiest flee abroad," said Lior Ben Arieh, who works at Ortra, a conference management company.

"We've heard from companies and colleagues abroad who are really worried about visiting and are afraid of the democratic situation in Israel. We are here to fight for what is left."

Israel has no constitution, and there is little separation between the executive and legislative branches, as governments nearly always hold a

majority in the Knesset. This has historically meant the Supreme Court is the most effective check on government power.

Opposition leader and former premier Yair Lapid, a bitter Netanyahu rival, addressed the crowd in front of the Knesset on Monday.

Lawmakers "pretend they don't hear, pretend they don't care, but they hear and they're afraid", he said.

"We are not here just to pay taxes and send our children to the army. We will not shut ourselves in our houses when they try to turn the State of Israel into a dark dictatorship and silence us," he added.

Opposition leader Yair Lapid at the Knesset protest in Jerusalem on 13 February, 2023 (Oren Ziv/MEE)

"Outwardly they grin sarcastically, saying that [the protests] won't change anything, but inside they tremble," said Lapid, who some have said should not to cooperate with any negotiations or talks with the coalition. "A day will come when each of the men and women who are out here on the street will be able to say to their children: When the day the State of Israel needed me the most, I was there."

Former defence minister Benny Gantz told protesters: "The entire opposition and many more Israeli citizens who voted for the coalition parties are united against the 'targeted assassination' that is being carried out against Israeli democracy."

Another former defence minister and former chief of staff, Moshe Yaalon, said: "We did not fight against enemies from outside to give the country over to criminals from within. One man [Netanyahu]... has taken us all hostage."

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Erdogan, war: feb14 Turkey Won't Allow New Syrian Refugee Influx After Quake: Minister

Turkey Won't Allow New Syrian Refugee Influx After Quake - Minister

By Reuters

Feb. 13, 2023, at 9:04 a.m.

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Turkey Won't Allow New Syrian Refugee Influx After Quake -Minister

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FILE PHOTO: Turkey’s Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu meets with U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken at the State Department in Washington, U.S., January 18, 2023. REUTERS/Leah Millis/Pool/File Photo**REUTERS**

ANKARA (Reuters) - Turkey will not allow a new influx of refugees from Syria after last week's devastating earthquake, Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu said on Monday.

"Claims that there is a new influx of refugees from Syria to Turkey (after the earthquake) are not true. We will not allow that; it is out of question," Cavusoglu said at a news conference in Ankara.

"All of these border crossings are for humanitarian aid. That does not mean that Syrians are coming to Turkey through these crossings," he said.

"We are facilitating humanitarian aid for Syrians, but we are not allowing a new Syrian refugee influx. These are two separate issues," he said.

Readlater, censorship, stats, government: feb14 **article from 1996 about top selling pharmaceutiicals , 26-02-1996 Print**

The world's top selling drug in the year 2000 will be Astra Merck's Losec (omeprazole), with sales of $3.6 billion, says a new report from Datamonitor. By 2000, Losec will have toppled the current top-seller, Glaxo Wellcome's Zantac (ranitidine) into fifth place, with projected sales of $1.76 billion, says the study, Global Pharmaceutical Forecasts to 2005, which is available through the Marketletter offices.

Second to Losec will be Eli Lilly's depression treatment Prozac (fluoxetine), but with sales of $2.8 billion it will still be a long way behind, says the study.

Prospects For Market leaders Looking at the prospects for the leading players to the millennium, Datamonitor says Merck & Co is well-placed to retain its strong leadership. It has an interest in five of the 25 forecast top-sellers, and they will earn it $7 billion. Further into the future, the study believes Merck & Co will be able to sustain this level of performance to 2005 with three of the world's top five drugs.

Datamonitor believes Pfizer will have the largest share of sales of the 25 top-sellers by 2005, with four expected to produce sales over $5 billion worldwide. It notes that its forecast for Pfizer conflicts with current industry views on the need for mergers between the leading players, but it says the Pfizer model demonstrates that well-managed companies, focused on achieving organic growth driven by R&D, will be able not only to survive but also to prosper.

Glaxo Wellcome will also be well-positioned at the turn of the century, despite the expiry of patents on Zantac. It will be less dependent on any single product, and will have four of the world's top-selling 25 drugs by 2005, says the study.

Eli Lilly's strong dependence on Prozac will reveal its vulnerability as sales of the drug begin to decline, says Datamonitor. While the Humulin insulin products will continue strongly, Lilly's new antiosteoporosis drug raloxifene (a selective estrogen receptor modulator) must be successful if the strong position forecast for the company in 2000 is to continue to 2005.

World's Top 25 Drugs: Forecasts To 2000 Brand Generic Indication Company 2000 Sales ($m)

Censorship, government: feb14 **Microsoft Suspends Relationship With Group Blacklisting Conservative News**

Peru's Boluarte Vows to Crush 'Narcoterrorism' After Deadly Police Ambush

Canada's Trudeau Sees 'Some Sort of Pattern' in Downed Aerial Objects

Algeria Arrests Activist's Family After Her Escape to France

Stats, middle east, readlater: feb14 **read later: 2019–2021 Iraqi protests**

War, middle east, readlater: feb14 Popular Mobilization Forces: still don't understand, but looks important

According to Faleh A. Jabar and Renad Mansour for the Carnegie Middle East Center, Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki used these forces to combat the emergence of ISIL and maintain his influence in predominantly Sunni areas.[39]

The People's Mobilization Forces (PMF) were formed by the Iraqi government on 15 June 2014 after top Iraqi Shia cleric Ali al-Sistani's non-sectarian[39] fatwa on "Sufficiency Jihad" on 13 June.[1] The fatwa called for defending Iraqi cities, particularly Baghdad, and to participate in the counter-offensive against ISIL, following the Fall of Mosul on 10 June

2014.[1][58] The forces brought together a number of Shia militias, most of which receive direct support from Iran, along with a small number of Sunni tribesmen by uniting existing militias under the "People's Mobilization Committee" of the Iraqi Ministry of Interior in June 2014.[59] The forces would fall under the umbrella of the state's security services and within the legal frameworks and practices of the Ministry of Interior. On 19 December 2016, Iraqi President Fuad Masum approved a law passed by parliament in November that incorporated PMU in the country's armed forces. The pro-Assad website *Al-Madsar News* reports that, with this incorporation, the PMU are now subject to the supreme commander of the national armed forces and will no longer be affiliated to any political or social group.[60][*better source needed*] However, many of these irregulars have continued to operate independently of the Iraqi state.[61]

On 21 March 2017, the PMU announced the launch of a special forces course, in order to create a Special Forces Division. The training program covered a variety of missions with direction from the Iraqi Special Operations Forces.[62][*better source needed*] On December 11, 2017, the PMU began to be entirely consolidated under the Iraqi Armed Forces, following a call by Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani to integrate.[43] However, as late as May 2018, this integration had yet to take place, and PMF members remained without the same wages and privileges as soldiers in the regular Iraqi Armed Forces.[63]

According to some sources, the Popular Mobilization Forces have made a fundamental difference on the battlefield, as they have undermined the superiority of ISIL at the level of guerrilla warfare, as well as at the level of the psychological operations.[64]

Feb14 The Philippines has filed nearly 200 diplomatic protests against China’s aggressive actions in the disputed waters in 2022 alone.

Erdogan, war: feb14 they're only now getting there: First Hezbollah Aid Convoy Reaches Syria's Latakia

“The affected people need all the help they can get, and Syria has always stood by Lebanon throughout its ordeals … [We will] stand beside them in this disastrous challenge,” Safieddine said.

“The West revealed the culture to which it belongs and confirmed that it perpetuates false slogans in defending human rights,” he added, referring to the US sanction policy,

which since the quake hit, has made it highly difficult for aid to reach Syria.

On 10 February, the US announced a temporary, 180-day sanctions-waiver for the Caesar Act, in an apparent admission that Washington’s sanctions do indeed hinder humanitarian efforts, which it attempted to deny many times. This decision followed a storm of criticism, as well as warnings by UN officials against the ‘politicization’ of earthquake relief efforts.

Last week, the Iraqi resistance faction, the Popular Mobilization Units (PMU), announced that the departure of their engineering team to the affected areas of Syria in order to aid relief efforts. Following the quake, the Iraqi government was among the first countries to send aid to Syria in disregard of western sanctions, along with Algeria, Iran, and the UAE.

As rescue teams in Syria and Turkiye continue to remove bodies from the rubble, the death toll from last week’s disaster has topped 36,000 people, and is expected to continue rising.

journal, stats, government, middle east: feb14 britian influencing gas pricing for an entire country through the imf's international 'loan programme'.

In order to implement a major prior condition set by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) for striking a staff-level agreement with Pakistan, the Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) of the Cabinet Monday approved up to 124% hike in the tariff of gas across the board for six months — January to June.

Under this initiative, debt relief was extended through the suspension of principal and interest payments. So far, 37 debt rescheduling agreements with 15 creditor countries have been signed.

Reforms in the energy sector and controlling the circular debt remained on top of the agenda during the talks held with the IMF mission that concluded 10-day parleys in Islamabad last Thursday.

Islam, stats: islam and the monkey: feb14 a specific example, current

LAHORE, Pakistan (AP) — Pakistan’s police arrested at least 50 suspects in the kidnapping and lynching of a man already detained on charges of blasphemy, officials said Monday.

A mob of hundreds of enraged Muslims descended on the police station in the Nankana district of eastern Punjab province on Saturday. Members of the mob had been alerted that a man identified only as Waris desecrated a copy of Islam’s holy book, the Quran.

According to the district police chief, Babar Sarfraz Alpa, the mob had accused Waris of pasting images of himself, his wife and a knife on pages of the book, displaying and throwing them in the streets.

Charges of blasphemy carry the death penalty under Pakistani law.

Officials said the mob stormed the Warburton police station on Saturday. Some used a wooden ladder to climb a wall and open the main gate, allowing the mob to enter. By the time police reinforcement could reach the scene to save the prisoner’s life, the mob had already lynched him and were about to burn his body. Police dispersed the crowd.

The slain man, Waris, was arrested in 2019 on a blasphemy charge and was in prison until mid-2022.

Police say Waris again desecrated the Quran, and that some witnesses grabbed and beat him. Police took Waris into custody. But the mob later attacked the police station and killed him, saying they were punishing him for insulting the Quran.

Stats, energy, sanctions, war, government, germany: feb14 think tank: Europe Has Spent 792 Billion Euros to Shield Citizens From Energy Crisis

European countries have forked out over £700bn (€792bn) to shield businesses and households from soaring gas prices since the start of the energy crisis, according to the latest research from Bruegel.

The think tank has calculated that since September 2021, the EU has now earmarked or spent €681bn in energy crisis spending, while the UK has allocated €103bn and Norway just over €8bn.

Germany was by far the biggest spender, splashing out nearly €270bn since September 2021.

The figures mark a sharp increase since the last report three months ago when Bruegel calculated a €706bn total, as countries grappled with a challenging winter with Russia cutting off gas supplies to Europe last year.

Russia reduced flows significantly from the Nord Stream 1 pipeline and halted flows into multiple countries.

Bruegel urged governments to shift towards more targeted support, prioritising lower income levels as countries start running out of fiscal space to maintain such broad funding.

Funding has chiefly focused on non-targeted measures such as VAT cuts on petrol or retail power price caps.

However, the think-tank argued that dynamic needed to change over the coming months.

War: feb14 nato chief to step down in October after 9 years in office.

Feb14 Russian Arms Supplies to India Worth $13 Billion in Past Five Years

Feb14 Switzerland said Friday it had blocked Spain from sending Swiss-made anti-aircraft guns to Ukraine, in line with its strict military neutrality.

Feb14 Russia Claims US Army Training ISIS, al-Qaeda Fighters in Syria to Deploy to Russia, Russia's Foreign Intelligence Service (SVR) told TASS on Monday.

US recruiting IS jihadists for terrorist attacks in Russia and CIS, says intel agency

The SVR stressed that the US was planning to send terrorists in small groups

Sixty such terrorists with combat experience in the Middle East were selected this year in January.

According to the SVR, they are undergoing a fast-track training course at the US base in Syria’s Al-Tanf, where they are being taught how to make and use improvised explosive devices, as well as subversive methods. "Particular emphasis is paid to planning attacks on heavily guarded facilities, including foreign diplomatic missions," the Foreign Intelligence Service said.

The SVR stressed that the US was planning to send terrorists in small groups. "In the near future, there are plans to deploy militants in small groups to the territory of Russia and the CIS

countries. They will be tasked with plotting and carrying out terrorist attacks against diplomats, civil servants, law enforcement agents and servicemen," the statement said. According to the US plot, they will conduct this scheme in cooperation with clandestine cells of international terrorist groups, such as Hizb ut-Tahrir, Jamaat Ansarullah and the Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan (outlawed in Russia).

The SVR also reported that special attention was paid to the involvement of natives of the Russian North Caucasus and Central Asia. All this demonstrates the complete loss of any moral principles in the US security services. "Obsessed with the insane idea of ’exsanguinating’ Russia, Washington’s experts consider it acceptable to use terrorists directly for their own dirty purposes. Such actions put Washington on a par with major international terrorist groups," the SVR concluded.

Feb14 Dutch F-35s Intercept Three Russian Military Aircraft Near Poland - Netherlands' Defence Ministry

Dutch F-35s Intercept Three Russian Military Aircraft Near Poland - Netherlands' Defence Ministry

By Reuters

Feb. 13, 2023, at 6:57 p.m.

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FILE PHOTO: A Dutch soldier stands guard as a Royal Netherlands Air Force F-35 takes off at Graf Ignatievo airbase, Bulgaria, April 14, 2022. REUTERS/Stoyan Nenov**REUTERS**

(Reuters) - Two Dutch F-35 fighters intercepted a formation of three Russian military aircraft near Poland and escorted them out, the Netherlands' defence ministry said in a statement late on Monday.

"The then unknown aircraft approached the Polish NATO area of responsibility from Kaliningrad," according to Reuters' translation of the ministry's statement.

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Kaliningrad is a Russian Baltic coast enclave located between NATO and European Union members Poland and Lithuania.

"After identification, it turned out to be three aircraft: a Russian IL-20M Coot-A that was escorted by two Su-27 Flankers. The Dutch F-35s escorted the formation from a distance and handed over the escort to NATO partners."

The Il-20M Coot-A is NATO's reporting name for the Russian Ilyushin Il-20M reconnaissance aircraft while the Su-27 Flankers are NATO's reporting name for the Sukhoi Su-28 fighter aircraft.

Political Cartoons on World Leaders

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Russia's defence ministry did not immediately respond to Reuters' request for a comment.

The Netherlands' defence ministry said that eight Dutch F-35s are stationed in Poland for February and March.

(This story has been refiled to clarify the interception happened near Poland)

(Reporting by Lidia Kelly in Melbourne; Editing by Matthew Lewis)

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Tags: Poland, Russia, European Union, Europe, Netherlands

Stats, Africa: feb13

At the request of the Federal Government of Somalia and in support of Somali National Army engagements against al-Shabaab, U.S. Africa Command conducted a collective self-defense strike Feb 10, 2023.

The strike occurred in a remote area approximately 45 km southwest of Hobyo, Somalia, and about 472 km northeast of Mogadishu.

The initial assessment is the strike killed 12 al-Shabaab fighters.

Given the remote location of the operation, the command assesses that no civilians were injured or killed.

Rooting out extremism requires intervention beyond traditional military means.

Somali President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud has publicly stated that economic reform, social and political reconciliation, and religious tolerance are key pillars of his strategy to mobilize society against international terrorist. Military actions are only a part of the Federal Government of Somalia's efforts to comprehensively address their security challenges.

The U.S. is one of several countries providing humanitarian aid, stabilization efforts, economic development, and military assistance to the Federal Government of Somalia in their ongoing campaign.

U.S. Africa Command is the defense arm of the U.S. whole-of-government approach with African partners -- diplomacy, development and defense. This three-pronged, or "3D" approach brings together multiple agencies from within the U.S. government to increase cooperation and support for partner-led, U.S.-enabled solutions to shared security challenges, including violent extremism or terrorism.

"U.S. Africa Command provides support to the Somali government to address terrorist threats, but we are only part of the U.S. efforts there," said Gen. Michael Langley, AFRICOM commander. "Our Department of State and U.S. Agency for International Development colleagues have programs that help build resilience through education and training; develop agricultural diversity; improve

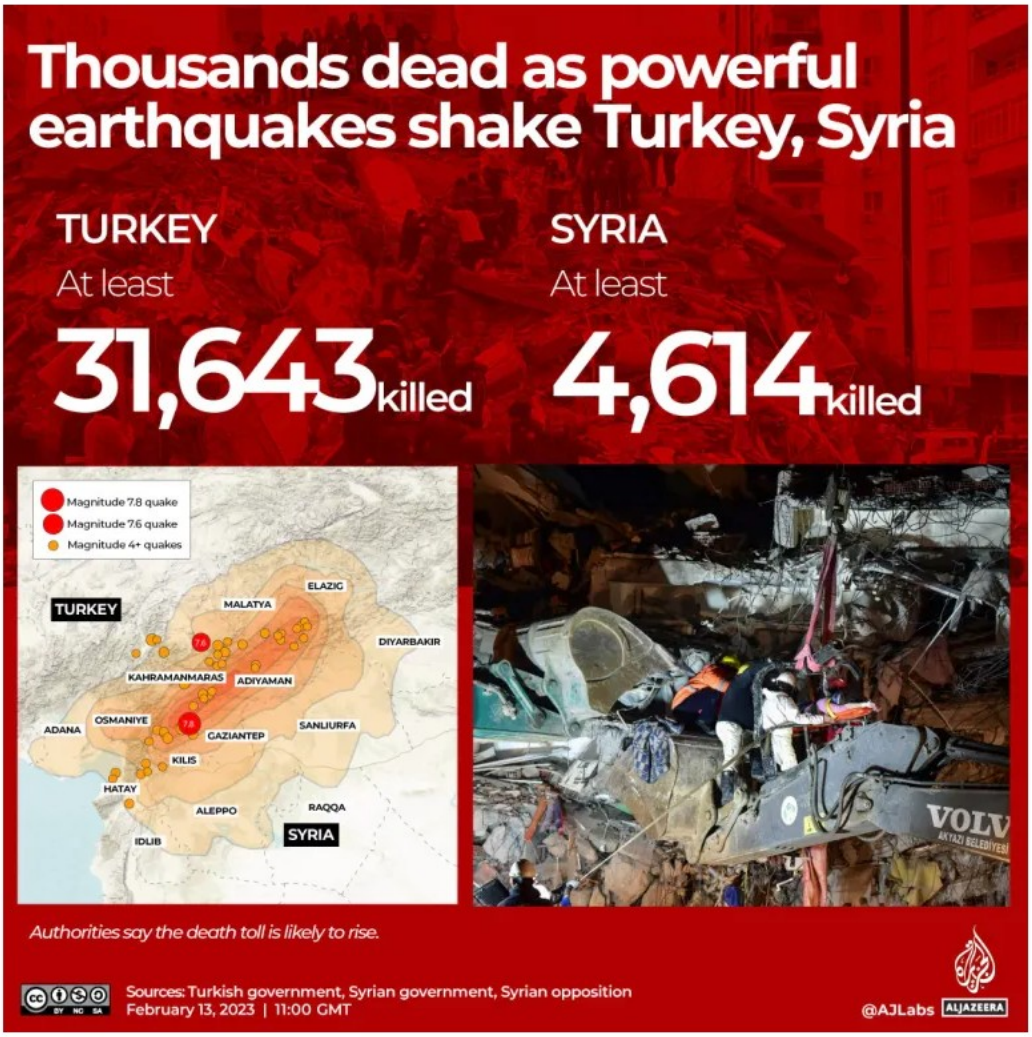
markets and trade; and strengthen democracy and good governance.”

Somalia remains central to stability and security in all of East Africa. U.S. Africa Command's forces train, advise, and assist partner forces to help give them the tools they need to defeat al-Shabaab, the largest and most deadly al-Qaeda network in the world.

U.S. Africa Command will continue to assess the results of this operation and will provide additional information as appropriate. Specific details about the units involved and assets used will not be released in order to ensure operations security.

The Federal Government of Somalia and U.S. Africa Command will continue to take great measures to prevent civilian casualties. Protecting civilians remains a vital part of the command's operations to promote greater security for all Africans. To view the U.S. Africa Command Quarterly Civilian Casualty reports, visit: https://www.africom.mil/what-we-do/airstrikes/civilian-casualty-report.

Feb13 36 000 dead now..



(Al Jazeera)

Political aftershocks in Turkey

By **RYAN HEATH**

02/13/2023 09:43 AM EST

Follow Ryan on Twitter | Send tips and insights to rheath@politico.com

While our attention is focused on unidentified flying objects, there

are a bunch of very identifiable political campaigns, geopolitical tensions, and backlash to government taking shape on-the-ground.

THE WEEK AHEAD

Former U.S. ambassador to the United Nations **Nikki Haley** will launch her presidential campaign Wednesday.

Munich Security Conference this morning published its annual report ahead of its gathering, which starts Friday.

THE HELL IN TURKEY

Is a death toll of 36,000 from the 7.8 magnitude earthquake in southern Turkey and northern Syria, the end of either the death count or the political effects? Almost certainly not.

How can it be, given that there is 100ft deep crevice and a rescue operation that has often lacked essentials from water and body bags to cranes? Some families told AP it took rescue teams four days to arrive to their buildings — virtually extinguishing opportunities to find survivors trapped in the rubble.

Turkey’s President **Recep Tayyip Erdoğan** appears more focused on a centralized cover-up than an effective on-the-ground response. That centralization starts with an emergency decree that will last in Turkey’s southern provinces until just two weeks before the country’s May election.

Ritual shaming of building contractors has begun — Turkish Vice President **Fuat Oktay** said 131 suspects had so far been identified as responsible for the collapse of some of the thousands of buildings. But that’s cold comfort for survivors— since many have lost their entire families, despite that information about the flawed buildings was well-known before the quake.

REALITY CHECK: Turkey-based Canadian journalist **Nick Ashdown** puts the situation into perspective for those not familiar with Turkish politics: “Imagine not only 10 cities half gone and the government floundering. Imagine not only that the government was begged to do something that could have prevented 95 percent of the devastation and didn't, but also

that they are now gaslighting a desperate public."

By the numbers: In addition to tens of thousand dead, the Turkish economy is now going to take a massive hit. Already struggling with the world's highest inflation rate — at over 50 percent — there's now going to be a 10 percent hit to GDP, sending the country into a deep recession, Bloomberg reported.

YOU KNOW IT'S TOTALLY MESSED UP WHEN:

- The government misuses statements by earthquake scientists, to cover for their lack of preventative action
- The main local airport was built directly on the faultline, wrecking the runway, and hindering relief efforts
- The government seizes an aid truck from an opposition party, the pro-Kurdish Peoples' Democratic Party
- Ukraine has sent emergency crews to help, despite being neck deep in its own hot war
- U.N. Aid chief **Martin Griffiths** has admitted the U.N. failed Syrians, after taking 5 days to turn up

An Austrian army spokesperson said early on Saturday, via a written statement, that clashes between unidentified groups in the Hatay province had left dozens of personnel from the Austrian Forces Disaster Relief Unit seeking shelter in a base camp with other international organizations. German agencies also briefly suspended their work.

Search for earthquake survivors enters final hours in Turkey

By Mehmet Guzel, Suzan Fraser and Sarah El Deeb | AP
February 13, 2023 at 4:58 p.m. EST
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ADIYAMAN, Turkey — The desperate search for earthquake survivors in Turkey and Syria entered its final hours Monday as rescuers using sniffer dogs and thermal cameras surveyed pulverized apartment blocks for any sign of life a week after the disaster.
Are you on Telegram? Subscribe to our channel for the latest updates on Russia's war in Ukraine.

Teams in southern Turkey's Hatay province cheered and clapped when a 13-year-old boy identified only by his first name, Kaan, was pulled from the rubble. In Gaziantep province, rescue workers, including coal miners who secured tunnels with wooden supports, found a woman alive in the wreckage of a five-story building.
Stories of such rescues have flooded the airwaves in recent days. But tens of thousands of dead have been found during the same period, and experts say the window for rescues has nearly closed, given the length of time that has passed, the fact that temperatures have fallen to minus 6 degrees Celsius (21 degrees Fahrenheit) and the severity of the building collapses.

Erdogan, war, middle east: feb13 The quake's financial damage in Turkey alone was estimated

at $84.1 billion, according to the Turkish Enterprise and Business Confederation, washinton post

Grief and desperation in Idlib as earthquake compounds crises

North-west Syrian province was a place of last resort for people fleeing war – then came Covid, cholera and new catastrophe

Tents dot the hillside overlooking former homes in Al-Haram, Syria. Photograph: Alessio

Idlib had been a place of last resort for thousands displaced by more than a decade of war. Across the province, some pitched their tents among ancient Byzantine ruins in sheer desperation for somewhere to live. Elsewhere, tent cities stretched for miles in the shadow of looming limestone mountains.

The Syrian rebel leader Ahmed Hussein al-Shara, better known by the nom de guerre Abu Mohammad al-Jolani, the de facto ruler of Idlib, told the Guardian that the province was crying out for international aid, after accusations that he had played a role in blocking aid to parts of rebel-held Syria. “We are a new government with a lot on our shoulders and the scale of this crisis is bigger than the capabilities we have,” he said.

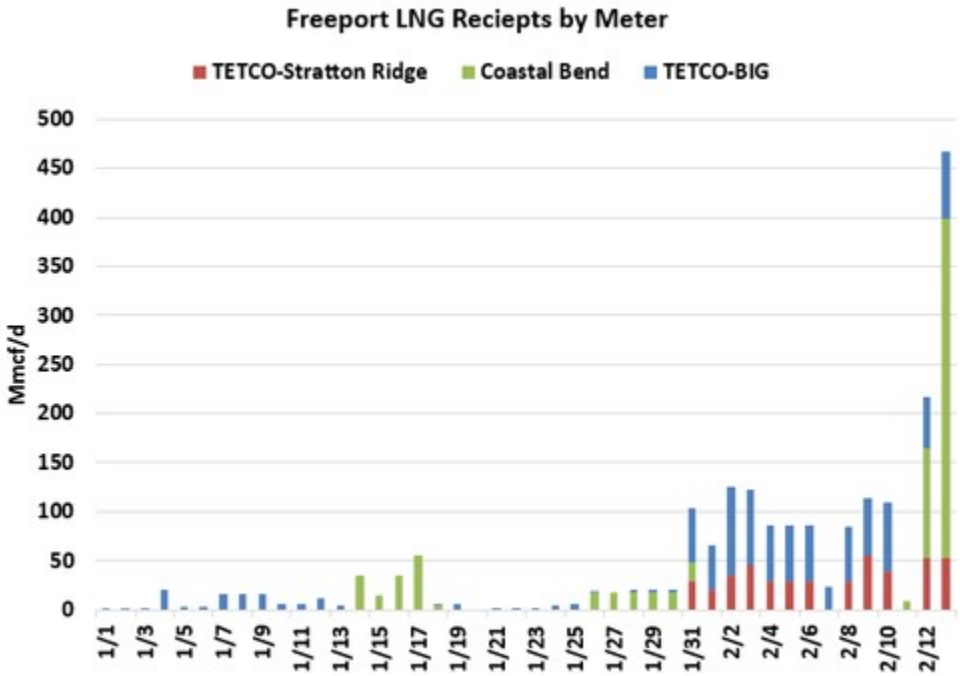
The Salvation Government, a political organisation that nominally rules the rebel-held north-west, launched a website to record the number of people displaced and missing, in an effort to respond swiftly. But since the earthquake only 52 trucks carrying food and other aid have entered the region, where at least four-fifths of the estimated 5 million population are classed as in urgent need by the UN.

Readlater, war, sanctions, energy, Erdogan, Russia, government, stats, markets: feb13 NatGas Slides As Mild Weather Trumps Freeport LNG's First Cargo Since June Blast

Natural gas prices fell Monday morning as mild weather for the Lower 48 dents heating demand, and inventories remain plentiful as the winter season winds down. There's still too much production as prices hover around $2.45 per million British thermal units (MMBtu).

The bearish backdrop of the NatGas market trumped signs of a nearing partial restart at the Freeport liquefied natural gas plant in Texas.

Freeport LNG has shown its first material flows since June 2022, with yesterday's late-cycle nominations settling at 164 Mmcf/d and this morning's early flows totaling 398 Mmcf/d via TETCO Stratton Ridge and Coastal Bend. If we also include TETCO-BIG meter station, those totals rise to 216 Mmcf/d and 467 Mmcf/d.



The Kmarin Diamond LNG Tanker arrived at Freeport LNG on February 10 and departed on February 12 with a partially laden hold. After the Kmarin Diamond left, Prism Agility moved in and is now the second tanker to dock at Freeport LNG. There are five more LNG tankers lying in wait off the coastline.

Criterion Research explains what has to happen next for a partial restart to occur.

At Criterion, we currently believe the initial tanker was loaded down with LNG that was already stored onsite after the June 2022 incident. Freeport does not yet have the approval to reinstate service of the liquefaction trains, and the new gas flowing on site seems to be tied to the earlier approval to "commence

commissioning, including cooldown, of the LNG rundown piping system and LNG train 3 (Unit 13)."

Traders will watch Freeport this week to see what news comes from the facility, as a partial restart seems imminent.

totaling agree: International Olympic Committee president Thomas Bach on Sunday denied that the organization was on the wrong side of history by helping Russians and Belarusians qualify for the 2024 Paris Summer Games.

World No. 1 Daniil Medvedev, banned from Wimbledon, ends grass season with QF defeat in Mallorca

Daniil Medvedev finished his tennis season on grass after a straight-set loss to Roberto Bautista Agut in the quarterfinals of the Mallorca Championships on Thursday.

The Russian international lost 6-3, 6-2 after entering the match with an 8-2 record on the surface this year, with his losses coming in consecutive finals in Germany and the Netherlands.

Medvedev, the defending champion in Mallorca, had only one break opportunity against the 20th-ranked Bautista Agut, who had advanced without having to play in the last 16 because Nick Kyrgios withdrew with an

abdominal injury. It was the fourth win against a No. 1 player for the Spaniard, with his three previous victories coming against Novak Djokovic. “I had to play very good to beat Daniil,” Bautista Agut said. “He’s the No. 1, the last champion here in Mallorca. He just beat me a few days ago. I played a really complete match.”

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Medvedev, who will not play at Wimbledon because of the ban on Russians over the war in Ukraine, needed to come from behind to get past Aslan Karatsev in the round of 16 on Wednesday. The Russian had also beaten Bautista Agut in two sets in the quarterfinals in Germany last week. Bautista Agut will play in the semifinals against Antoine Bellier, a 303rd-ranked Swiss qualifier who got past Tallon Griekspoor of the Netherlands 5-

7, 7-6 (5), 6-2. Bellier became the lowest-ranked semifinalist since then-No. 335 Juan Manuel Cerundolo triumphed in Cordoba in 2021.

Second-seeded Stefanos Tsitsipas had cruised into the quarterfinals but needed three sets against American Marcos Giron to make it to the last four on Thursday. His 7-6 (5), 4-6, 6-3 victory came in more than 2½ hours.

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“It was a lot of work today. It was not easy,” Tsitsipas said. “I had to deal with the heat, had to deal with my opponent playing great. It was a big physical effort. I had the fighting spirit.”

The sixth-ranked Greek, who leads the tour with 38 wins this season, will next face Frenchman Benjamin Bonzi, who defeated Germany’s Daniel Altmaier 6-3, 6-4.

Inflation, government, journal: feb13

Nonetheless, current risks are of a close encounter with inflation of the third kind: not the cyclical, transitory, supply-driven kind we can ignore; nor the cyclical, demand-driven kind we easily fought with monetary or fiscal policy; but rather the nasty *structural* mixture of supply *and* demand driven inflation that comes with unstable geopolitics, the weaponization of commodities and supply chains, and a shift back to national security, industrial policy, and protectionism. Which is where UFOs and Top Gun antics come in.

More..

- **The Chairman of the US House Armed Services Committee is pledging to remove all Chinese goods from US defence supply chains**, with a major dislocating impact along them. The Economist covers ‘The history and limits of America’s favourite new economic weapon: America has ramped up controls on technology trade with China’.
- **Secret British cross-party talks to try to rebuild ties to the EU**, particularly in regards to defense, Russia, and China, are surely no coincidence; not as another UK insider says its armed forces are in such a parlous state that ‘If the UK went into battle today, I doubt we’d survive’.

according to top banker, economic theories or market mental models no longer working today is as hard for people to stomache as ‘little green men’,

Do we really have *unidentified* flying inflation? No: it's just that comfortable economic theories or market mental models no longer working today is as hard for some to admit as the existence of little green or grey men. T

I'm imagining of of large speedsheet showing pricing of everything changing due to condition, all in ways that will seem obvious in hindsight, for some random reason. He continues on..

That’s despite Russia’s actions, the West’s responses, balloons being shot down all over, and NordStream 2 being blown up. All of this is inflationary, and structural, on both the supply and the demand side.

Unidentified Flying Inflation

BY TYLER DURDEN
MONDAY, FEB 13, 2023 - 11:10 AM

By Michael Every of Rabobank

War: feb13 February 10, 202311:24 AM ASTRussia announced it will cut oil output by 500,000 barrels a day in retaliation for G7 sanctions

War, Russia: feb13 Ukraine Short On Ammo With Russia Gaining, Despite West's Billions, Stoltenberg Admits--Much-awaited major Russian offensive has begun...

A war of attrition becomes a battle of logistics," while acknowledging that "Yes, we have a challenge. Yes we have a problem . . . but we have a strategy to tackle that."

Stoltenberg

February 10, 202311:24 AM ASTRussia announced it will cut oil output by 500,000 barrels a day in retaliation for G7 sanctions

War, Russia: Feb13 100 cars derailed in East Palestine, Ohio near the state’s border with Pennsylvania with roughly 5,000 residents. The accident launched fifty of those hundred freight cars from the tracks.contained pressurized vinyl chloride, a highly flammable carcinogenic gas

The chaos began early last week when a train of more than 100 cars derailed in East Palestine, Ohio near the state’s border with Pennsylvania with roughly 5,000 residents. The accident launched fifty of those hundred freight cars from the tracks. Twenty of the freight cars on the train were carrying hazardous materials, ten of which were detailed. While the accident had no fatalities, of those ten cars, **five contained pressurized vinyl chloride, a highly flammable carcinogenic gas.**

China, war: feb13 China insists the object was a civilian weather balloon that had been blown off course, but has not said whom it belonged to or

offered other details.The U.S. action “seriously violated international norms and set a pernicious precedent,” ministry spokesperson Tan Kefei said in a statement issued late Thursday.

Beijing said the U.S. “overreacted” by shooting it down. The Foreign Ministry has labeled the action “irresponsible” and calls U.S. claims that it was spying “part of the U.S. side’s information warfare against China.”

The U.S. has flatly contradicted China’s version of events, saying that imagery of the balloon collected by American U-2 spy planes as it crossed the country showed that it was “capable of conducting signals intelligence collection” with multiple antennas and other equipment designed to upload sensitive information and solar panels to power them.

In 1956, Chinese authorities intercepted American spy balloons and displayed remnants at an exhibition in Beijing, accusing the U.S. of violating their airspace.

War: feb13 Russia-Ukraine War 2.0: First Tanks, Then F16s. Where Does This End?

Almost as soon as major NATO countries, led by the US, promised to supply Ukraine with battle tanks, the cry went up warning that tanks alone would be unlikely to turn the war’s tide against Russia.

The subtext – the one western leaders hope their publics will not notice – is that Ukraine is struggling to hold the line as Russia builds up its troop numbers and pounds Ukrainian defenses.

A permanent partition of Ukraine into two opposed blocs – one more pro-Russian, the other more pro-NATO – is looking ever more likely.

Ukraine’s president, Volodymyr Zelensky, has not been shy in telling the West what he expects next: fighter jets, especially US-made F16s.

Kyiv is keen to break what western media have termed a “taboo” by getting NATO aircraft directly involved in the Ukraine war. There is a good reason for

that taboo: the use of such jets would let Ukraine expand the battlefield into Russian skies, and implicate Europe and the US in its offensive.

But why assume the West's taboo on supplying combat jets is really any stronger than its former taboo on sending NATO battle tanks to Ukraine? As one European official observed in a Politico article: "Fighters are completely inconceivable today, but we might have this discussion in two, three weeks."

And sure enough, within days, Zelensky's office said there had been "positive signals" from Poland about supplying Ukraine with F16s. French President Emmanuel Macron also refused to rule out the possibility of contributing combat jets.

US Eases Some Sanctions on Syria for 180 Days

The exemption was announced on Thursday night and came days after a devastating earthquake hit northern Syria and Turkey. As of Sunday, over 33,000 people have been killed in the earthquake. More than 4,500 people died in Syria, and at least 29,605 have been killed in Turkey.

As many as 5.3 million people in Syria may have been left homeless by the earthquake

Dhanapala said the UNHCR has been "rushing aid" to the badly affected parts of Syria, but "it's been very, very difficult".

"There are 6.8 million people already internally displaced in the country. And this was before the earthquake."

Meanwhile, a second UN aid convoy of 14 trucks has crossed into rebel-held areas of Syria – after an initial six vehicles went in on Thursday.

"The full scale of the devastation in Syria is only beginning to come to light," said Al Jazeera's Kristen Saloomey, reporting from the UN in New York.

Although more aid convoys are getting through the one authorised border point into the hardest-hit areas, our correspondent said critics argue it is too little, too late.

“The majority of [people made homeless from the quake are] in areas the Syrian government doesn’t control, where people had already been uprooted by years of war,” she said.

On Friday the UN also released another $25m in emergency funding for Syria, bringing the total so far to $50m, Saloomey said, “but an assessment team is now on the ground and the needs are expected to well exceed that”.

Middle east, china, readlater: Beijing has cemented its footing in the Middle East since the United States pivoted away from the region during the administration of former US president Donald Trump. https://www.scmp.com/news/china/diplomacy/article/3163528/china-and-iran-seek-boost-infrastructure-and-energy-links

Iranian President to Visit China as Beijing Aims to Mend Ties After Riyadh Summit

Iran also signalled its displeasure over the joint statement with visiting Vice-Premier Hu Chunhua, who led a delegation to Tehran one week after the summit. Hu said China firmly supported Iranian efforts to defend sovereignty and territorial integrity and was ready to work with Iran to promote bilateral cooperation.

On the sidelines of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation summit in Uzbekistan in September, Xi told Raisi that China viewed its relations with Iran from a "strategic and long-term perspective" and was ready to increase communication and coordination with Iran.

In January last year, Beijing and Tehran announced plans to boost infrastructure and energy links as a landmark 25-year cooperation agreement came into force.

Middle east, war, sanctions, government: feb13 Egyptian Companies Forced to 'Do Illegal Things to Stay in Business'

A lack of foreign currency and tough banking requirements to finance imports is forcing many Egyptian manufacturers to engage in smuggling and illegal trade activity to stay afloat, manufacturers and analysts told Middle East Eye. With bogus export practices seemingly widespread, Egypt's official trade figures may also be inflated.

For Egyptian businesses dependent on importing raw materials and machinery to manufacture goods it has been a turbulent past year.

The currency has devalued three times against the US dollar since March, losing half its value, while inflation has surged, reaching 22 percent in December.

"Due to inflation and the depreciation, our buying power is over 50 percent less than the start of last year," Gamal*, a Cairo-based garment and textile manufacturer, told Middle East Eye, using a pseudonym.

"It is difficult and expensive to import raw materials and close to impossible to import machinery, even if you have the money."

'A lot of people are doing this through the black market. There are all kinds of games going on, and everyone knows that'

- Egyptian economy analyst

The skies started to darken for manufacturers last February when Russia invaded Ukraine, which drove up the price of energy, caused delays in the supply chain, and created market uncertainty. Some $22bn was pulled out of the country's debt market by foreign investors.

Then in March, Cairo depreciated the Egyptian pound to meet International Monetary Fund (IMF) requirements after Egypt sought a $3bn loan, its fourth in six years from the lender, to meet its growing debt obligations. The move drove up the cost of importation for businesses, particularly for firms that did not earn 50 percent or more of their earnings in foreign currencies from exports.

In May, domestic regulations imposed an additional burden when the Central Bank of Egypt required businesses to use foreign currency for letters of credit (LC) – a bank-issued document that guarantees payment upon delivery of goods or services – instead of dealing directly with international suppliers.

At the same time, the government increasingly restricted the amounts that foreign currency bureaus were allowed to exchange.

Dollar deposits at banks also started to dry up as account holders transferred their savings into Egyptian pounds to take advantage of local banks offering fixed-term savings certificates with interest rates of over 18 percent, and up to 25 percent as of January.

"A lot of people exchanged US dollar deposits for Egyptian pounds and then bought the certificates, so this has vacuumed foreign currency out of the local banking system," said an Egyptian official off the record.

No choice but illegal

All of this left manufacturers who were more reliant on sales to the domestic market bereft of dollars and unable to acquire raw materials. This has had a major impact on Egypt's garment and textile industry, which employs some 1.5 million people.

'The foreign exchange problem is affecting the market dramatically. A lot of local companies selling domestically are not working at more than 50 percent capacity due to the lack of currency and the difficulty of getting raw materials," an industry player told trade publication World Textile Information Network in January.

To stay in business, manufacturers have had to resort to roundabout means to get goods and foreign currency.

"If manufacturers want to buy legally, it is impossible to get goods into the country. So buyers go on Facebook pages to find wholesalers selling containers of fabric. There's lots of smuggling of fabric, yarn and other accessories," said Gamal.

More sophisticated techniques are being used to get dollars into company bank accounts, as under government regulations deposits have to be from direct exports.

"If you have say $100,000 you are unable to deposit in the bank, you need to change the money's status into the proceeds of exports," said Gamal.

To do this, a manufacturer exports a container of low-quality goods to a friend who owns a business in another country, such as Dubai. The Egyptian manufacturer then transfers the desired amount to be repatriated as dollars to the "partner in crime", as Gamal put it, through a black market exchange dealer in Cairo.

"After the shipment and money is sent, you issue an invoice and your partner in crime deposits the money in their account and then makes a transfer to Egypt. You then have the money to pay for imports," said Gamal.

Companies are also genuinely exporting products to proper customers, he said, but over-invoice with the acquiescence of the buyer.

"This requires sending a large sum of money to the customer to cover the price difference," said Gamal. "We have no choice but to do illegal things to stay in business."

All kinds of games

In financial crime circles, such a practice is known as trade-based money laundering (TBML).

The Financial Action Task Force, a Paris-based body that sets international standards to prevent money laundering, defines TBML "as the process of disguising the proceeds of crime and moving value through the use of trade transactions in an attempt to legitimise their illicit origins. In practice, this can be achieved through the misrepresentation of the price, quantity or quality of imports or exports."

While Egyptian manufacturers are not using TBML to legalise proceeds of crime - the funds are their own - they are nonetheless using ways to get money into the financial system that is illegal under Egyptian law.

"A lot of people are doing this through the black market. There are all kinds of games going on, and everyone knows that," said a Cairo-based political-economy analyst who requested anonymity.

How IMF loans keep Sisi afloat as Egypt sinks deeper into debt

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"You can basically pay foreign exchange dealers for whatever you want, but at a higher rate. There is a big financial incentive to do this, and if it is easy to do so through corrupt ways, everyone will do it instead of going out of business."

The financial costs of accessing dollars through such roundabout ways are taking their toll on businesses.

"There is only so much business you can do through these transfers, as it takes a lot of working capital," Gamal said.

"If you have X capital, you have to expand it by 1.5 or 1.8 times to move it out of the country and back in, as you lose on the goods sent, the black market rate to convert Egyptian pounds to dollars, and on the transfer.

"You also have to wait for the goods to be exported, and the transfers to happen."

Gamal said that the only other option that Egyptian businesses have is to get a bank loan, but with interests at around 18-20 percent, "it is not worth it".

"After the last devaluation, prices are crazy," he added, in reference to the pound's depreciation by 13 percent to a historic low of 32.20 to the dollar, from 27.60 at the open of trade, in January.

The elephant in the room

Smuggling and trade misinvoicing are distorting Egypt’s real import and export figures, with Gamal estimating that around half of garment and textile businesses, as well as other enterprises, are engaging in such illicit activity.

Egyptians struggle to afford food as Sisi says it's 'not end of the world'

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"You have to bear in mind that when the government is telling you in the news that they have increased export numbers by such and such a figure, this is probably due to the bogus exports," he said.

The analyst agreed.

"This does distort trade figures and produces misleading data. And poor data is part of Egypt's economic problems. The government talks up the figures with a big propaganda campaign to make it sound positive, but if you look at the facts and the numbers it is a mess," he said.

"Egypt has been reduced to begging and is completely dependent on Gulf countries and international money (to meet its debt obligations) because of the complete failure of the regime's economic model. No one is allowed to say this. It is the elephant in the room."

The foreign currency crunch may ease after close to $1bn flowed into Egypt the day after the January depreciation, while the government has also started clearing import backlogs at ports.

But such inflows "are nowhere near enough," said the analyst.

"Many companies are going out of business, and there is a big difference between the reality on the street versus what you see (on Egyptian) TV. There is still a flourishing black market, which shows ministers are lying and that we've not bottomed out. The problem remains a dollar shortage."

War: feb13 China Spots Mystery Object Over Waters Near Northern Port City
Germany Offers Temporary Visas for Turkish, Syrian Quake Victims
HTS Militants Block Aid Coming From Damascus-Held Territory
Wagner Owner Says War in Ukraine Could Drag on for Years

Moldovan Govt Quits Amid Economic Turmoil, Tension With Russia
Nearly One Million French March as Pension Protests Continue
Barcelona Cuts Ties With Twin City Tel Aviv Over Israeli 'Apartheid'
Disputed Spratly Islands Now Home to Supermarkets for Chinese Soldiers
Four City Inspectors Slain at Mexico's Playa Del Carmen Resort
US Top Envoy Calls for 'Dialogue' in Rare Call With Nicaragua FM
Seven Police Officers Killed in Cocaine Hotspot of Central Peru
Niger Says at Least 10 Soldiers Killed in Insurgent Ambush
Morocco Recalls Ambassador to France as Tensions Grow
Sudan Military Finishes Review of Russian Red Sea Base Deal
Doctor Says 57 Killed in Week of Fighting in Somaliland City

War: feb13 US Military Recovery Of Unidentified Object Downed Over Alaska Faces Severe Conditions; “Recovery operations continue today near Deadhorse, Alaska,” U.S. Northern Command said in a statement to news outlets Saturday. “We have no further details at this time about the object, including its capabilities, purpose, or origin.”

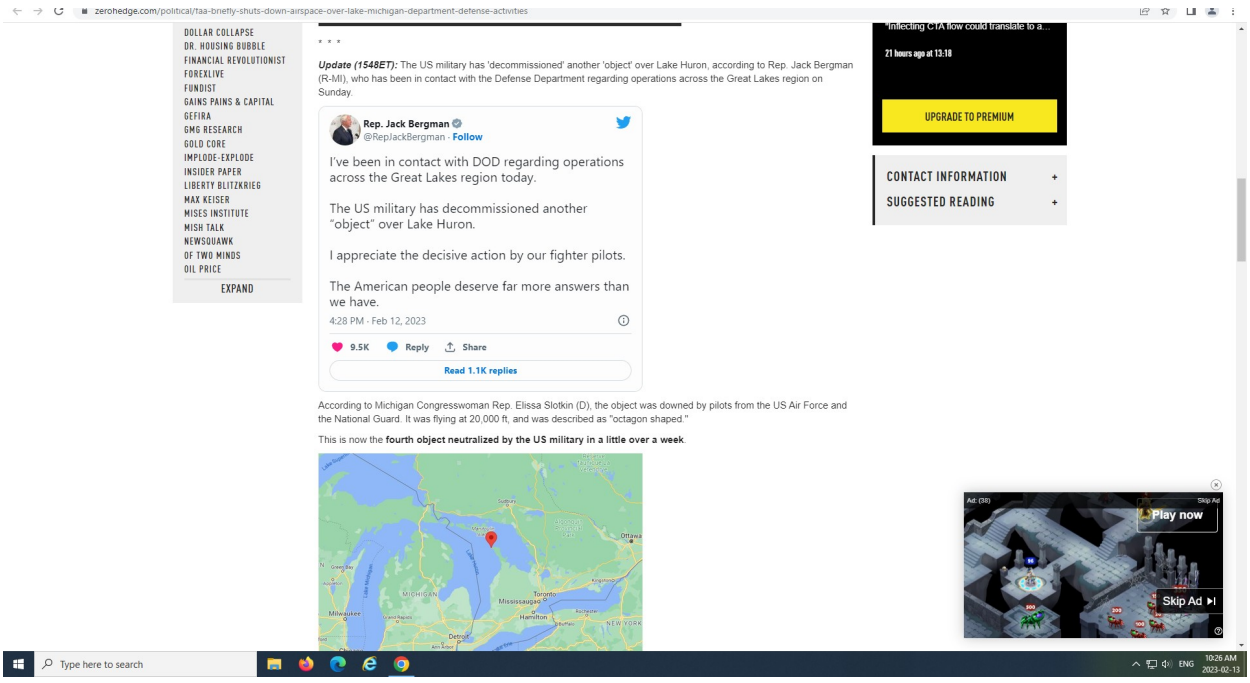
War: feb13 'Octagonal' Object Shot Down Over Lake Huron; fourth object neutralized by the US military in a little over a week.

Update (1659ET):

- LATEST OBJECT SHOT DOWN BY U.S. WAS FIRST DETECTED OVER MONTANA ON SATURDAY - OFFICIAL
- U.S. DID NOT ASSESS LATEST OBJECT TO BE MILITARY THREAT TO ANYTHING ON THE GROUND -OFFICIAL
- SENIOR U.S. OFFICIAL SAYS OBJECT SHOT DOWN WAS OCTAGONAL STRUCTURE, BUT NO DISCERNIBLE PAYLOAD

The Pentagon is expected to give a press conference at 5pm ET regarding the downed object.

Update (1548ET): The US military has 'decommissioned' another 'object' over Lake Huron, according to Rep. Jack Bergman (R-MI), who has been in contact with the Defense Department regarding operations across the Great Lakes region on Sunday.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MAX KEISER
MISES INSTITUTE
MISH TALK
NEWSQUAWK
OF TWO MINDS
OIL PRICE
EXPAND
Update (1548ET): The US military has 'decommissioned' another 'object' over Lake Huron, according to Rep. Jack Bergman (R-MI), who has been in contact with the Defense Department regarding operations across the Great Lakes region on Sunday.
Rep. Jack Bergman
@RepJackBergman · Follow
I've been in contact with DOD regarding operations across the Great Lakes region today.
The US military has decommissioned another "object" over Lake Huron.
I appreciate the decisive action by our fighter pilots.
The American people deserve far more answers than we have.
4:28 PM · Feb 12, 2023
9.5K
Reply
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Read 1.1K replies
According to Michigan Congresswoman Rep. Elissa Slotkin (D), the object was downed by pilots from the US Air Force and the National Guard. It was flying at 20,000 ft, and was described as "octagon shaped."
This is now the fourth object neutralized by the US military in a little over a week.
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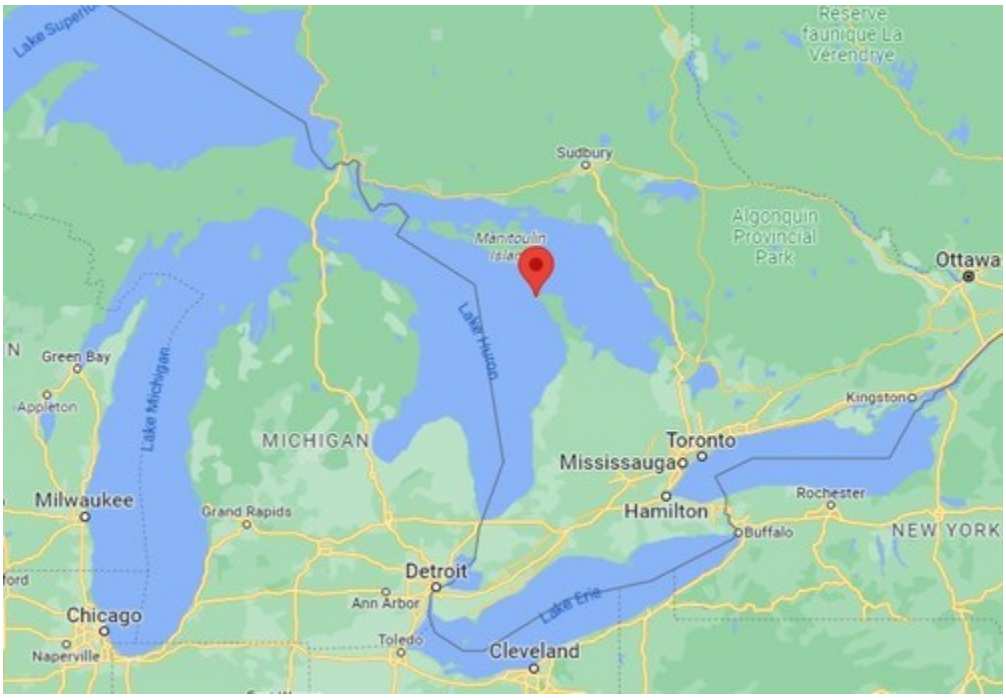
2023-02-13

According to Michigan Congresswoman Rep. Elissa Slotkin (D), the object was downed by pilots from the US Air Force and the National Guard. It was flying at 20,000 ft, and was described as "octagon shaped."

This is now the **fourth object neutralized by the US military in a little over a week**.



Authored by Jack Phillips via The Epoch Times (emphasis ours),

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) restricted airspace over a portion of Lake Michigan on Sunday to "support Department of Defense activities" that temporarily closed down the area for commercial and civilian air traffic, which was lifted a short while later.

The North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD) confirmed later that both it and the FAA "implemented a temporary flight restriction airspace over Lake Michigan at approximately 12 p.m. EST on Feb. 12, 2023." That was done "to ensure the safety of air traffic in the area during NORAD operations," it said, noting that the restriction has since been lifted.

"The FAA briefly closed some airspace over Lake Michigan to support Department of Defense activities," an FAA spokesperson told The Epoch Times on Sunday, without elaborating further. "**The airspace has been reopened**."

The FAA notice, which banned civilian air traffic from the area, was done for national defense reasons, according to a map monitoring FAA notices,

the AFP news agency, Reuters, and Fox News. As of Sunday at around 1:15 p.m. ET, the FAA flight restriction appeared to have been lifted, according to the map.

There were no public comments from the Department of Defense as of Sunday afternoon.

The FAA has provided few details about why it set up the flight restriction, which encompassed a square area that encompassed a portion of Michigan's Upper Peninsula, the northwestern part of the Lower Peninsula, and parts of Wisconsin.

"Pilots who do not adhere to the following [procedure] may be intercepted, detained and interviewed by law enforcement or security personnel," the FAA also said Sunday about the Lake Michigan restriction, adding that pilots who enter could face deadly force, according to Fox News.

A number of large U.S. cities are located along Lake Michigan, including Chicago; Milwaukee; Gary, Indiana; and Green Bay, Wisconsin.

Government: feb13
Since the end of 2018, the headcount at the investment bank has jumped 34% to more than 49,000. Now the firing cycle is underway. ; Goldman fired 3,200 employees, or about 6.5% of its headcount last month.

Goldman Sachs CEO Wishes He Fired Workers Earlier

"As the environment was growing more complicated in Q2 of last year, every bone in my body believed we should be much more aggressive in slowing hiring and reducing headcount."

Stats, energy readlater: Mapping the world's oil and gas pipelines Every day the world consumes some 100 million barrels of oil and 60 million equivalent barrels of natural gas.

aljazeeradotcom/news/2021/12/16/mapping-world-oil-gas-pipelines-interactive

war, sanctions, russia, government, stats: incredible infographic collective, Russia and Ukraine were part of the 15 Soviet republics that made up the Soviet Union. Following the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991, Ukraine declared independence on August 24. The map below shows when each of these countries declared independence.

UKRAINE-RUSSIA CRISIS

Conflict at a glance

After months of tensions, on **February 24, Russian forces launched a full-scale military** invasion of Ukraine. **Kyiv has declard martial law**, saying Ukraine will defend itself.

- **March 2021**
  Russian troops begin amassing along the Ukraine border
- **December 2021**
  An estimated 100,000 Russian soldiers are concentrated along the Ukraine border
- **January 2022**
  - Russia, NATO and the OSCE hold talks
  - The US and Russia meet in Geneva to de-escalate tensions in Ukraine but differences remain unresolved
  - NATO puts troops on standby
- **February 2022**
  - Ukraine and Russia conduct military drills
  - Putin orders Russian forces to Ukraine rebel regions
  - Western powers call for more sanctions on Russia
  - Russia launches full-scale invasion of Ukraine

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Source: News agencies, © Mapbox, © OpenStreetMap

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(Al Jazeera)

(Al Jazeera)

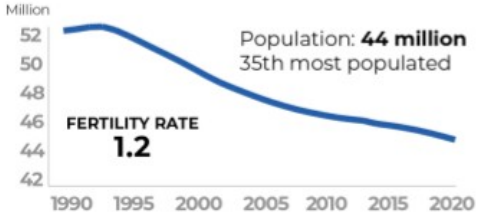
3. Political leadership

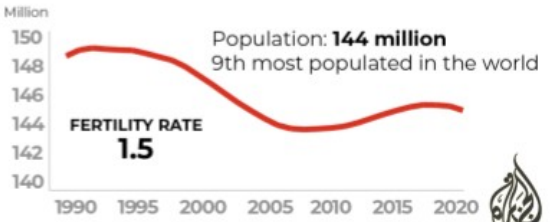
UKRAINE-RUSSIA CRISIS

How big are Ukraine and Russia?

Ukraine and Russia are the **two largest countries in Europe.**

Both **countries' populations have declined** since the 1990s with fertility rates among the **lowest in the world.**





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Source: World Bank | 2020

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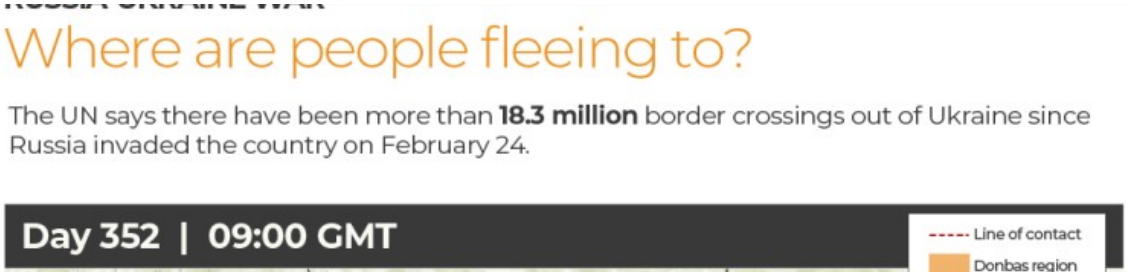
(Al Jazeera)

Read more about NATO history and expansion here.

War, Erdogan, middle east: feb12 At least 11 people have died following an attack in central Syria, which has been attributed to the Islamic State group.

black sea border crossings totaled by country since onset of ukraine war


Where are people fleeing to?
The UN says there have been more than **18.3 million** border crossings out of Ukraine since Russia invaded the country on February 24.
Day 352 | 09:00 GMT
Line of contact
Donbas region

, aljazeera

War, Erdogan: feb12 Syrian conflict, which was triggered by the suppression of pro-democracy demonstrations, has claimed around 500,000 lives and displaced around half the country's pre-war population.

War, Erdogan: feb12 33 000 dead, and the insanity created by organized old style, latin religions of the levant, roman, european continent, exemplified even today among high ranking figures in society.

Turkey-Syria earthquake: Controversial Israeli rabbi calls disaster 'divine justice'

Shmuel Eliyahu claimed God was punishing countries affected by disaster because of alleged mistreatment of the Jewish people

Rabbi Shmuel Eliyahu speaks in 2019 (Wikicommons)

By

MEE staff

Published date: 12 February 2023 10:35 UTC | **Last update:** 4 hours 57 mins ago

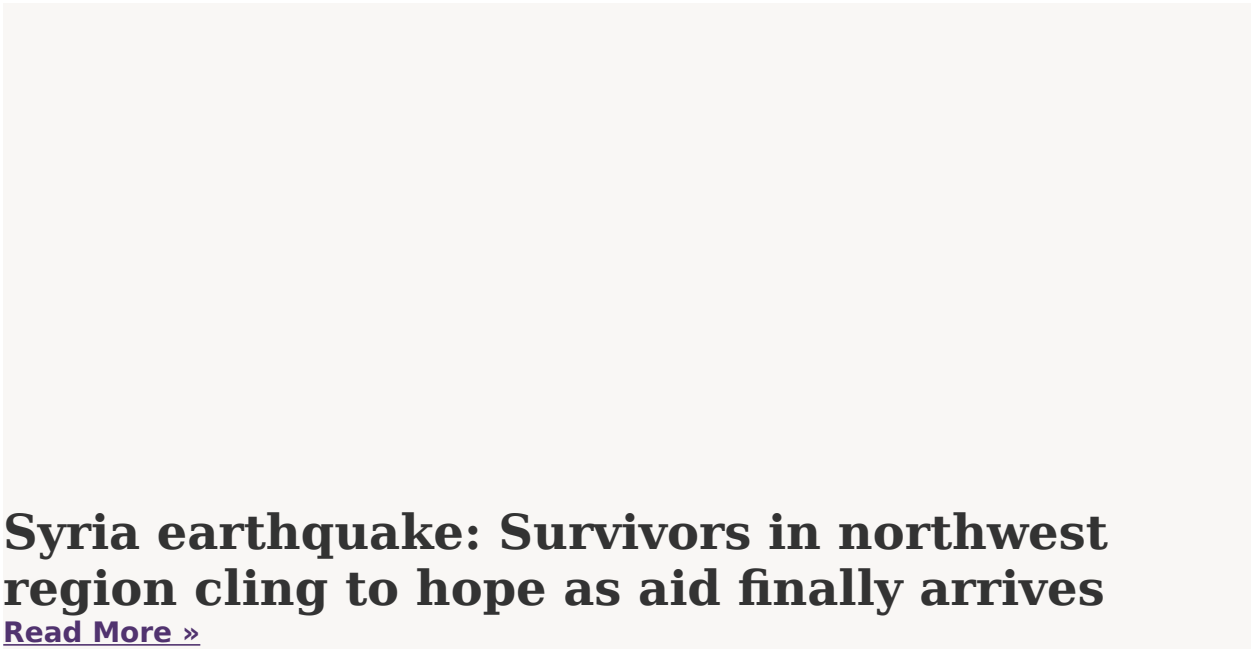
607 Shares

A controversial Israeli rabbi has sparked outrage after claiming the devastating earthquake that struck Turkey and Syria on Monday was "divine justice".

Shmuel Eliyahu, who serves as the chief Rabbi of Safed in northern Israel and is a member of the Chief Rabbinate Council, claimed that God was punishing countries affected by the disaster because of their alleged mistreatment of the Jewish people.

"God is judging all the nations around us who wanted to invade our land and throw us into the sea," Eliyahu wrote in an op-ed published in the Olam Katan newspaper on Friday.

At least 28,000 people were killed in Monday's devastating 7.8 magnitude earthquake, with as many as 18m people directly affected in southern Turkey and northern Syria.



Syria earthquake: Survivors in northwest region cling to hope as aid finally arrives
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In his column, Eliyahu claimed that Syria had "abused its Jewish residents for hundreds of years, invaded Israel three times, shot for

years at the farmers who lived at the foot of the Golan Heights, abused captives and hanged [Israeli spy] Eli Cohen."

He also took aim at Lebanon, which was rocked by the quake and is facing a debilitating financial crisis, writing: "There is no doubt that the country, which was once the 'Switzerland of the Middle East' has become hell on earth, and such things do not happen by chance."

As for Turkey, which served as the epicentre of the quake, he wrote: "We don't know what the Heaven's accounts are with Turkey, which slandered us in every possible arena, but if God reveals that he is going to make judgements on our enemies, we know that everything that happens is to clean the world and make it better."

Eliyahu, who is the the father of right-wing parliamentarian and Israel's minister of heritage, Amihai Ben-Eliyahu, has repeatedly courted controversy over his anti-Palestinian and Arab remarks, and has been indicted for inciting racism.

In 2008, he called on the government to carry out "state-sanctioned revenge" against Arabs in order to restore what he described as Israel's deterrence in the wake of an attack at a Jewish school in Jerusalem.

And in 2019, he told teenagers suspected of murdering a Palestinian woman in the West Bank that they shouldn't fear prison as that's where the road to political power begins, prompting several rights groups to call for disciplinary action and criminal charges to be filed against him.

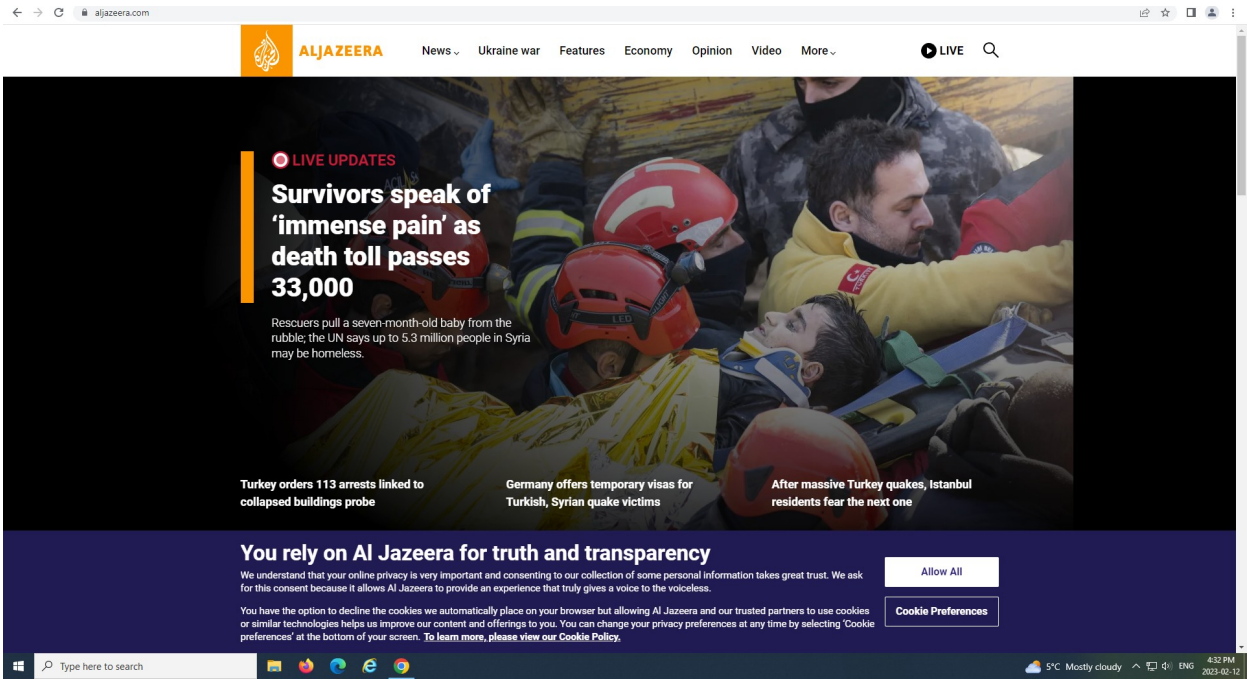
Since the devastating earthquake, dozens of countries from across the world have dispatched aid and rescues team to Turkey, including Israel.

Rocky relationship

Relations between Turkey and Israel worsened in 2011, when Ankara expelled Israel's ambassador following a UN report into Israel's 2010 raid on the Mavi Marmara aid ship to Gaza, during which nine Turkish citizens were killed.

The rift was healed in 2016 when full diplomatic relations were restored and both countries traded ambassadors.

Late last year, Israel's President Isaac Herzog met Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan in the Turkish capital Ankara, marking the first visit by an Israeli head of state to the country since 2008.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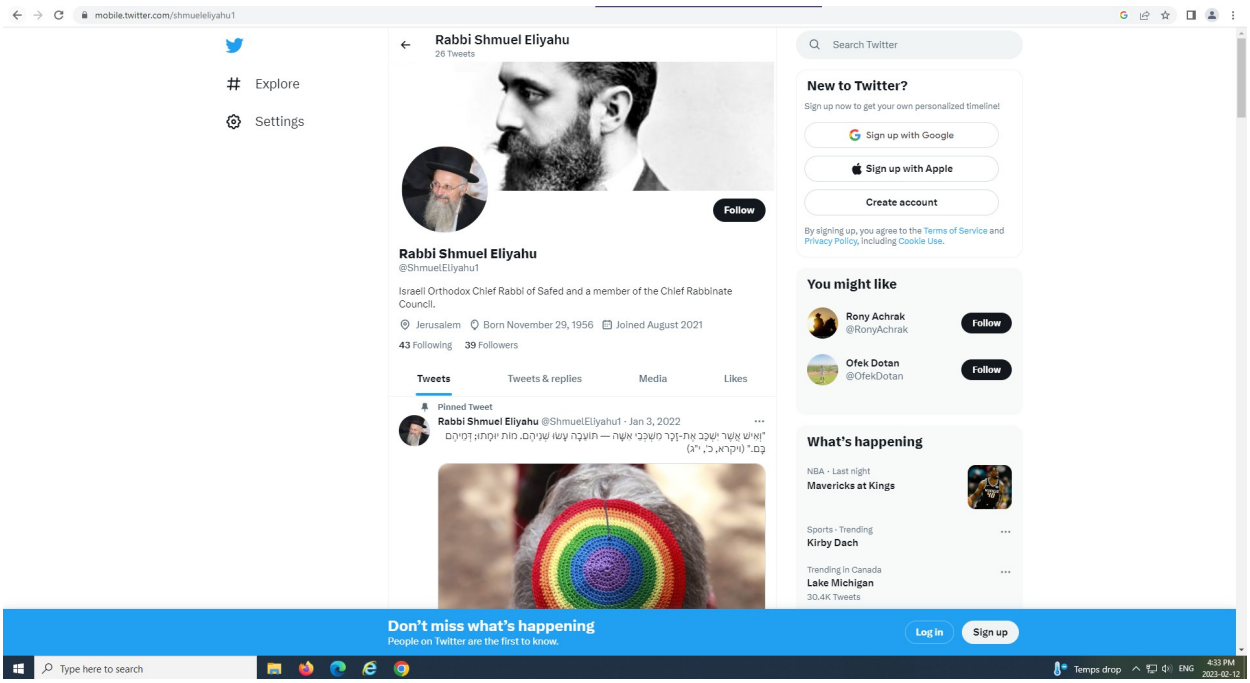
2023-02-12



US nixes visa of Rabbi Shmuel Eliyahu, who's been accused of racism – report

Safed chief rabbi, a leading national-religious figure, blames 'anti-Zionists' in the Reform movement for decision to cancel his travel document

By **TOI STAFF**31 May 2022, 9:14 am

Chief Rabbi of Safed Rabbi Shmuel Eliyahu speaks at the 'Besheva' group, on February 7, 2022. (Olivier Fitoussi/Flash90)

The US embassy recently told the chief rabbi of Safed, Shmuel Eliyahu, a prominent figure in Israel's national-religious movement, that his visa to visit the US has been revoked.

The visa was rescinded before its expiration date, according to an Israel Hayom report on Monday.

The embassy declined to comment to the newspaper about the development, while Eliyahu blamed his opponents in the Reform movement.

Eliyahu, the son of the late Rabbi Mordechai Eliyahu who served as Sephardic chief rabbi from 1983 to 1993, has generated criticism in the past few years for a variety of statements and rulings on Jewish law, including one that forbade the rental or sale of Jewish-owned property in the northern city of Safed to Arabs.

The rabbi, who has placed a focus on developing ties with US Jews, has also criticized the Reform movement, the LGBT community, and women serving in IDF combat units.

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A statement on behalf of Eliyahu said the rabbi was not given any reason for the cancellation of his visa, which he had held for many years.

“Our inquiries show that this is an action of anti-Zionists, such as the Reform movement, entities that frequently try to infringe on freedom of expression and silence rabbis,” the statement said. “After failing to silence Rabbi Eliyahu using legal action, they are now trying to silence the rabbi using a variety of petty methods.”

“There is no reason for worry — they will not succeed,” the statement added.

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In 2015, after then-education minister Naftali Bennett visited a Jewish school in the US affiliated with the Conservative movement, Eliyahu told Army Radio that Reform and Conservative Jews were causing a “spiritual Holocaust” of Judaism and that to give them any legitimacy is “a disaster.”

He has also in the past urged protests against the Women of the Wall, a group campaigning for egalitarian prayer rights at the Western Wall in Jerusalem.

In September 2020, the High Court of Justice ordered disciplinary action against Eliyahu for making a series of offensive comments and for taking “explicit” political stances forbidden to him due to his status as a government employee.
The court ruling came in response to a petition filed by several rights groups in 2016 against Eliyahu, citing over a hundred separate statements.

At the time of the ruling, he was one of several prominent right-wing rabbis to call for the acquittal of a Jewish Israeli convicted of murdering three members of a Palestinian family in a terror attack.

In 2018, Eliyahu set off tensions with the defense establishment when he said IDF chief Gadi Eisenkot should be dismissed because he allowed female soldiers to serve in combat units.

Duma arson attack: refers to the firebombing of a Palestinian family home[1] in late July 2015 in the village of Duma, which resulted in the death of three people; planned in a cave called the "Red House" built from a previously existing Palestinian structure, on a site that was then turned into an Israeli outpost called Yishuv HaDaat. According to Rabbis for Human Rights, the state still plans to legalize this same outpost, though it was stolen through threats and violence from its Palestinian owners

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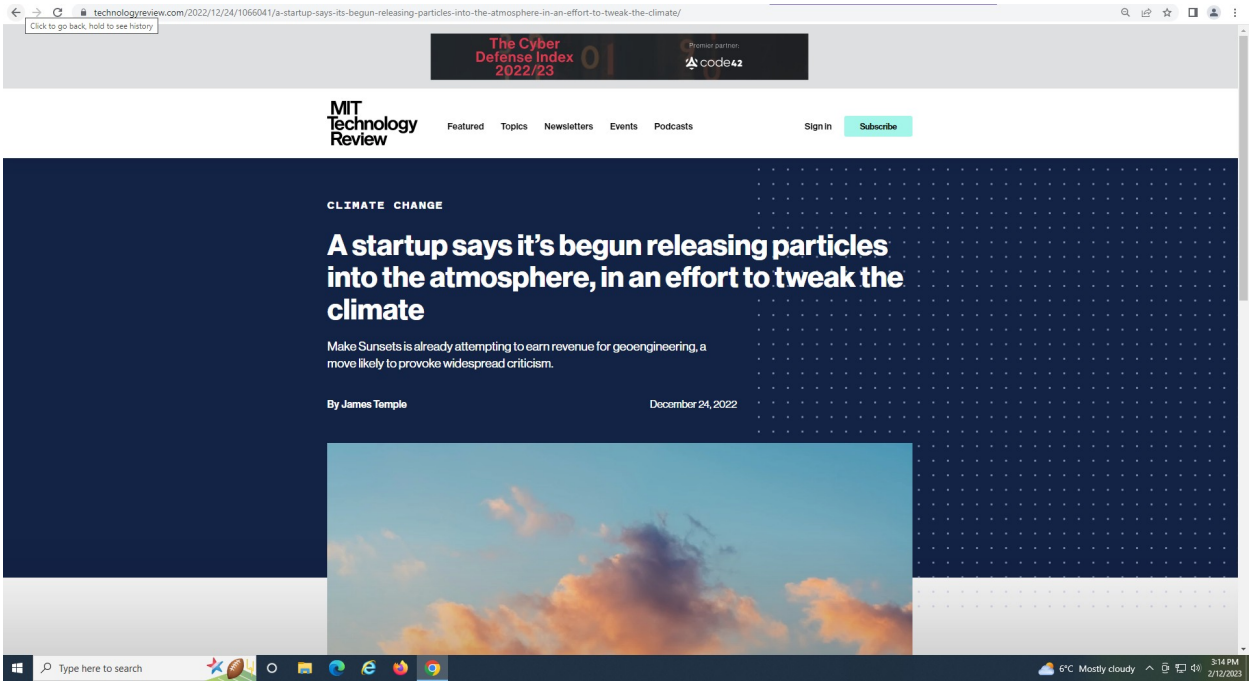
Stats, markets, government, media: keyword: "alien tentacle" gettyimages.ca

Weird article about geoengineering on mit technology dated dec24. Managed to somehow bypass the paywall with archive.is (fake archive)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A startup says it's begun releasing particles into the atmosphere, in an effort to tweak the climate
Make Sunsets is already attempting to earn revenue for geoengineering, a move likely to provoke widespread criticism.
By James Temple
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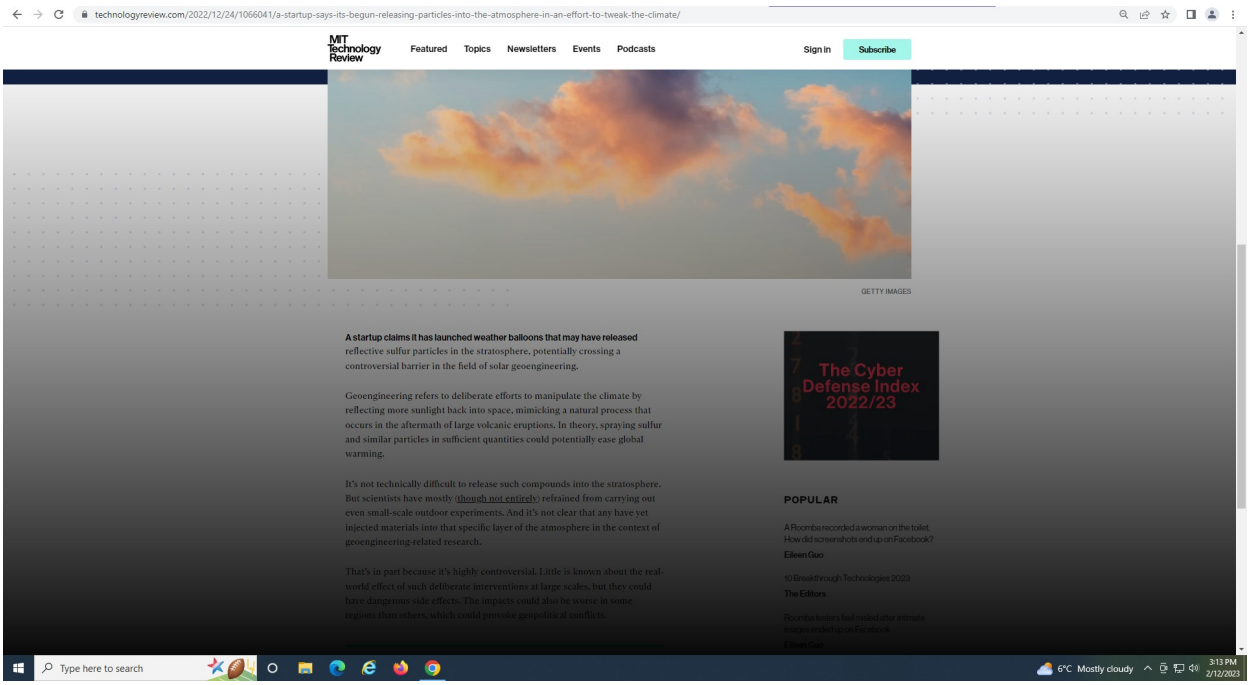
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A startup claims it has launched weather balloons that may have released reflective sulfur particles in the stratosphere, potentially crossing a controversial barrier in the field of solar geoengineering.
Geoengineering refers to deliberate efforts to manipulate the climate by reflecting more sunlight back into space, mimicking a natural process that occurs in the aftermath of large volcanic eruptions. In theory, spraying sulfur and similar particles in sufficient quantities could potentially ease global warming.
It's not technically difficult to release such compounds into the stratosphere. But scientists have mostly (though not entirely) refrained from carrying out even small-scale outdoor experiments. And it's not clear that any have yet injected materials into that specific layer of the atmosphere in the context of geoengineering-related research.
That's in part because it's highly controversial. Little is known about the real-world effect of such deliberate interventions at large scales, but they could have dangerous side effects. The impacts could also be worse in some regions than others, which could provoke geopolitical conflicts.
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but they could have dangerous side effects. The impacts could also be worse in some regions than others, which could provoke geopolitical conflicts.

Some researchers who have long studied the technology are deeply troubled that the company, Make Sunsets, appears to have moved forward with launches from a site in Mexico without any public engagement or scientific scrutiny. It's already attempting to sell "cooling credits" for future balloon flights that could carry larger payloads.

Several researchers MIT Technology Review spoke with condemned the effort to commercialize geoengineering at this early stage. Some potential investors and customers who have reviewed the company's proposals say that it's not a serious scientific effort or a credible business but more of an attention grab designed to stir up controversy in the field.

Luke Iseman, the cofounder and CEO of Make Sunsets, acknowledges that the effort is part entrepreneurial and part provocation, an act of geoengineering activism.

Related Story

The US government is developing a solar geoengineering research plan

The federal effort could set the stage for more studies into the feasibility, benefits and risks of one of the more controversial means of combating climate change.

He hopes that by moving ahead in the controversial space, the startup will help drive the public debate and push forward a scientific field that has faced great difficulty carrying out small-scale field experiments amid criticism.

"We joke slash not joke that this is partly a company and partly a cult," he says.

Iseman, previously a director of hardware at Y Combinator, says he expects to be pilloried by both geoengineering critics and researchers in the field for taking such a step, and he recognizes that “making me look like the Bond villain is going to be helpful to certain groups.” But he says climate change is such a grave threat, and the world has moved so slowly to address the underlying problem, that more radical interventions are now required.

“It’s morally wrong, in my opinion, for us not to be doing this,” he says. What’s important is “to do this as quickly and safely as we can.”

Wildly premature

But dedicated experts in the field think such efforts are wildly premature and could have the opposite effect from what Iseman expects.

“The current state of science is not good enough … to either reject, or to accept, let alone implement” solar geoengineering, wrote Janos Pasztor, executive director of the Carnegie Climate Governance Initiative, in an email. The initiative is calling for oversight of geoengineering and other climate-altering technologies, whether by governments, international accords or scientific bodies. “To go ahead with implementation at this stage is a very bad idea,” he added, comparing it to Chinese scientist He Jiankui’s decision to use CRISPR to edit the DNA of embryos while the scientific community was still debating the safety and ethics of such a step.

Shuchi Talati, a scholar in residence at American University who is forming a nonprofit focused on governance and justice in solar geoengineering, says Make Sunset’s actions could set back the scientific field, reducing funding, dampening government support for trusted research, and accelerating calls to restrict studies.

The company’s behavior plays into long-held fears that a “rogue” actor with no particular knowledge of atmospheric science or the implications of the technology could unilaterally choose to geoengineer the climate, without any kind of consensus around whether it’s okay to do so—or what the appropriate global average

temperature should be. That's because it's relatively cheap and technically simple to do, at least in a crude way.

David Victor, a political scientist at the University of California, San Diego, warned of such a scenario more than a decade ago. A "Greenfinger, self-appointed protector of the planet … could force a lot of geoengineering on his own," he said, invoking the Goldfinger character from a 1964 James Bond movie, best remembered for murdering a woman by painting her gold.

Some observers were quick to draw parallels between Make Sunsets and a decade-old incident in which an American entrepreneur reportedly poured a hundred tons of iron sulfate into the ocean, in an effort to spawn a plankton bloom that could aid salmon populations and suck down carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. Critics say it violated international restrictions on what's known as iron fertilization, which were in part inspired by a growing number of commercial proposals to sell carbon credits for such work. Some believe it subsequently stunted research efforts in field.

Pasztor and others stressed that Make Sunset's efforts underscore the urgent need to establish broad-based oversight and clear rules for responsible research in geoengineering and help determine whether or under what conditions there should be a social license to move forward with experiments or beyond. As MIT Technology Review first reported, the Biden administration is developing a federal research plan that would guide how scientists proceed with geoengineering studies.

Balloon launches

By Iseman's own description, the first two balloon launches were very rudimentary. He says they occurred in April somewhere in the state of Baja California, months before Make Sunsets was incorporated in October. Iseman says he pumped a few grams of sulfur dioxide into weather balloons and added what he estimated would be the right amount of helium to carry them into the stratosphere.

He expected they would burst under pressure at that altitude and release the particles. But it’s not clear whether that happened, where the balloons ended up, or what impact the particles had, because there was no monitoring equipment on board the balloons. Iseman also acknowledges that they did not seek any approvals from government authorities or scientific agencies, in Mexico or elsewhere, before the first two launches.

“This was firmly in science project territory,” he says, adding: “Basically, it was to confirm that I could do it.”

A 2018 white paper raised the possibility that an environmental, humanitarian, or other type of group could use this simple balloon approach to carry out a distributed, do-it-yourself geoengineering scheme.

In future work, Make Sunsets hopes to increase the sulfur payloads, add telemetry equipment and other sensors, eventually move to reusable balloons, and publish data following the launches.

The company is already attempting to earn revenue from the cooling effects of future flights. It is offering to sell $10 “cooling credits” for releasing one gram of particles in the stratosphere—enough, it asserts, to offset the warming effect of one ton of carbon for one year.

“What I want to do is create as much cooling as quickly as I responsibly can, over the rest of my life, frankly,” Iseman says, adding later that they will deploy as much sulfur in 2023 as “we can get customers to pay us” for.

The company says it has raised $750,000 in funding from Boost VC and Pioneer Fund, among others, and that its early investors have also been purchasing cooling credits. The venture firms didn’t respond to inquiries from MIT Technology Review before press time.

'A terrible idea'

Talati was highly critical of the company’s scientific claims, stressing that no one can credibly sell credits that purport to represent such a specific per gram outcome, given vast uncertainty at this stage of research.

“What they’re claiming to actually accomplish with such a credit is the entirety of what’s uncertain right now about geoengineering,” she says.

Kelly Wanser, executive director of SilverLining, a nonprofit that supports research efforts on climate risks and potential interventions, agreed.

“From a business perspective, reflective cooling effects and risks cannot currently be quantified in any meaningful way, making the offering a speculative form of ‘junk credit’ that is unlikely to have value to climate credit markets,” she wrote in an email.

Talati adds that it’s hypocritical for Make Sunsets to assert they’re acting on humanitarian grounds, while moving ahead without meaningfully engaging with the public, including with those who could be affected by their actions.

“They’re violating the rights of communities to dictate their own future,” she says.

David Keith, one of the world’s leading experts on solar geoengineering, says that the amount of material in question—less than 10 grams of sulfur per flight—doesn’t represent any real environmental danger; a commercial flight can emit about 100 grams per minute, he points out. Keith and his colleagues at Harvard University have worked for years to move forward on a small-scale stratospheric experiment known as SCoPEx, which has been repeatedly delayed.

But he says he’s troubled by any effort to privatize core geoengineering technologies, including patenting them or selling credits for the releases, because “commercial development cannot produce the level of transparency and trust the world needs to make sensible decisions about deployment,” as he wrote in an earlier blog post.

Keith says a private company would have financial motives to oversell the benefits, to downplay the risks, and to continue selling its services even as the planet cools to lower than preindustrial temperatures.

“Doing it as a startup is a terrible idea,” he says.

For its part, the company says it’s operating on the best modeling research available today, and that it will adjust its practices as it learns more and hopes to collaborate with nations and experts to guide these efforts as it scales up.

“We are convinced solar [geoengineeering] is the only feasible path to staying below 2 ˚C [of warming over preindustrial levels], and we will work with the scientific community to deploy this life-saving tool as safely and quickly as possible,” Iseman said in an email.

But critics stress that the time to engage with experts and the public would have been before the company began injecting material into the stratosphere and trying to sell cooling credits—and that it’s likely to face an icy reception from many of those parties now.

Update: This story was updated to add comments from Kelly Wanser, executive director of SilverLining.

War, sanctions, energy, Germany, Russia: feb12 mind-boggling stat

The sabotage presented a major energy crisis for the United States’ European allies. Europe imports nearly 40% of its gas from Russia, and the Nord Stream 1 was responsible for delivering approximately one third of that supply.

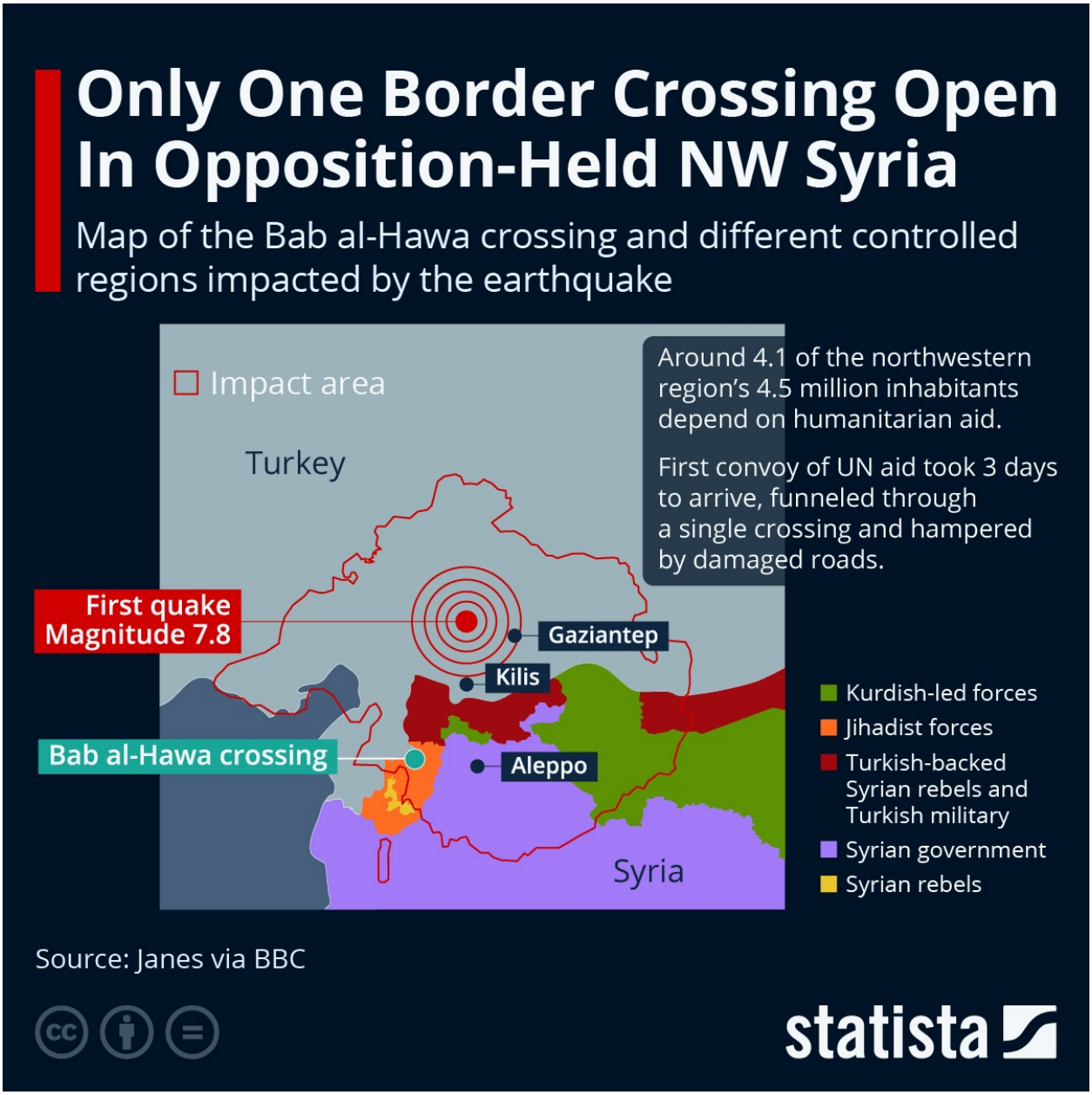
War, Erdogan: feb12 SAT FEB 11, AT 4:10 PMOnly One Border Crossing Open In Opposition-Held Northwestern Syria

Only One Border Crossing Open In Opposition-Held Northwestern Syria

BY TYLER DURDEN
SATURDAY, FEB 11, 2023 - 04:10 PM

International organizations are calling for more border crossings to be opened for aid to reach Northwestern Syria, where thousands of people have died following Monday's earthquake in neighboring Turkey. **Even before the quake, the opposition-held region of Syria was deep in humanitarian crisis,** with 4.1 million out of its 4.5 million inhabitants depending on humanitarian aid, following a nearly 12-year-long civil war that is still ongoing.

As Statista's Anna Fleck shows in the chart below, **currently only one UN-sanctioned border crossing is operational between Turkey and Syria.** It saw the first convoy of six trucks carrying aid on Thursday, three days after the quake struck, despite having been planned before the earthquake. According to the UN, the convoy was hampered by heavy damage to roads on the Turkish side. The second convoy is reported to have arrived only today.


Only One Border Crossing Open In Opposition-Held NW Syria
Map of the Bab al-Hawa crossing and different controlled regions impacted by the earthquake
Impact area
Turkey
Around 4.1 of the northwestern region's 4.5 million inhabitants depend on humanitarian aid.
First convoy of UN aid took 3 days to arrive, funneled through a single crossing and hampered by damaged roads.
First quake Magnitude 7.8
Gaziantep
Kilis
Bab al-Hawa crossing
Aleppo
Syria
Kurdish-led forces
Jihadist forces
Turkish-backed Syrian rebels and Turkish military
Syrian government
Syrian rebels
Source: Janes via BBC
statista

You will find more infographics at Statista

It has been particularly difficult to get aid to the people in need in northwestern Syria since decisions must be negotiated with the Assad government, often with Turkey and Russia too, via the UN, which can be a slow process.

So far, Syrian government-controlled areas have received some aid, provided from countries such as Russia, Iraq and Iran. This list of donors is more limited to that of Turkey since many countries do not want to have direct dealings with Assad following the civil war. When delivering aid to the Syrian government directly, it has a hold over what aid is delivered where, meaning it likely won't

go to the opposition-held regions. **According to the Guardian, in 2021, researchers found that the Central Bank of Syria was taking 51 cents in every dollar of aid.**

Between 2014 and 2021, there were four crossings sanctioned by the UN into Syria. Since then, however, UN Security Council vetoes from China and Russia cut these down to just one, the Bab al-Hawa crossing.

Reuters reports that **Ankara is currently discussing reopening a border crossing into Syrian government territory and also considering opening another into the Idlib region.**

A total of 21,000 people were killed when a 7.8 magnitude earthquake struck Turkey, ricocheting into neighboring Syria.

War: feb12 Third High-Altitude Airborne Object Shot Down By US Fighter Jet

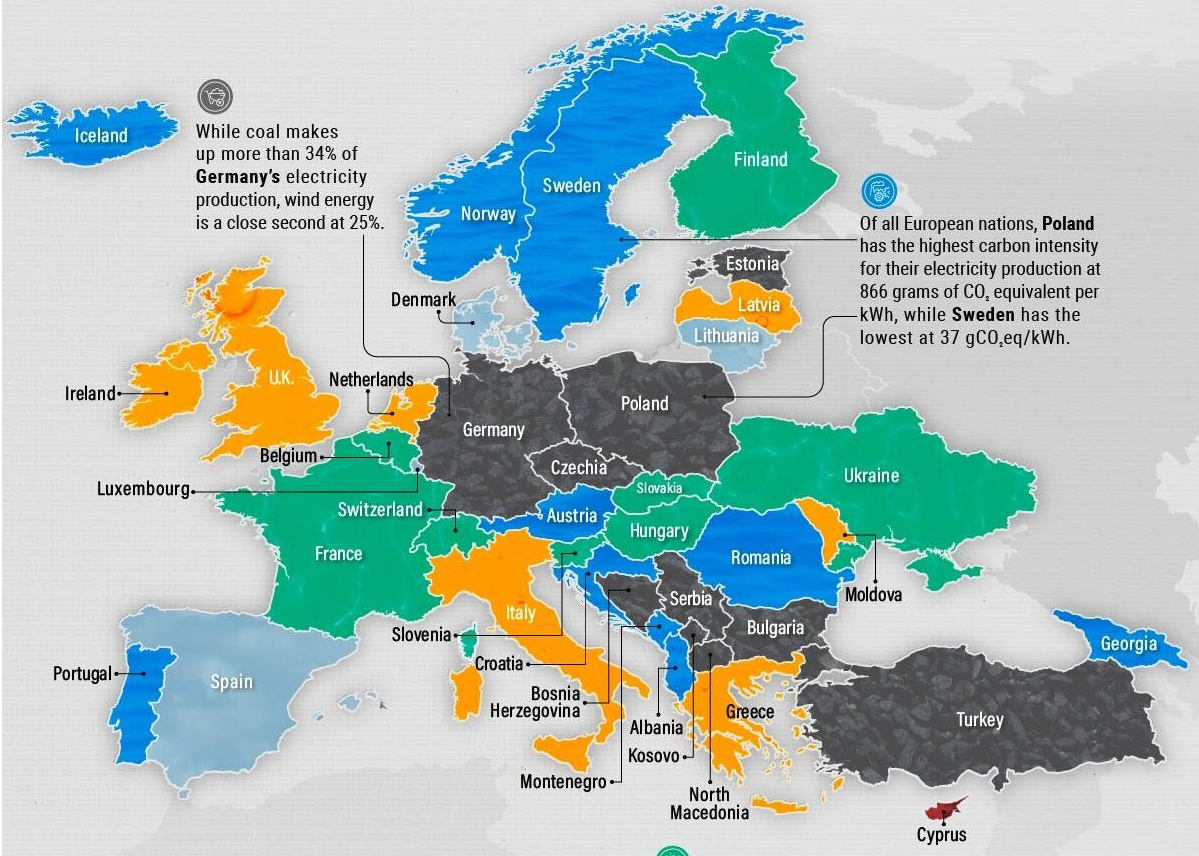
Stats, energy, government feb12 Mapping Europe's Biggest Sources Of Electricity By Country

EUROPE'S

Biggest Sources of Electricity

BY COUNTRY

COAL HYDRO GAS NUCLEAR WIND OIL



A decade ago, more than a quarter of europe's electricity was produced using **coal**. Since then, **solar and wind** generation have doubled to replace declining coal use.

EU Electricity Generation by Source 2021

Source: Electricity Maps, IEA, BP Statistical Review of World Energy, Eurostat, Government of Iceland

This map shows the top source of electricity production averaged over the twelve months from November 2021 to November 2022 unless otherwise stated. Data for Georgia and Moldova is from a five year period (2017-2021).

Stats, government: feb12 Homicide in England and Wales: year ending March 2022: only 696??!! Thts what it says...Saving the whole page

1.Main Points

- Homicide returned to pre-coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic levels, with 696 victims in the latest year; this is 130 more (a 23% increase) than the year ending March 2021 when government restrictions meant there was less social contact.
    - There were 696 victims of homicide in the year ending March 2022, 130 more (a 23% increase) than the previous year (566 victims; Appendix table 1). However, the previous year covered extended time periods where coronavirus (COVID-19) restrictions were in place to limit social contact. It is thought that these restrictions led to a fall in the level of public space homicides in this year. The number of homicides in the latest year is similar to the four pre-pandemic years, from the year ending March 2017 (688 victims) to the year ending March 2020 (677 victims, including 39 victims from the Grays lorry tragedy in 2019).

wales, short history, nine nations of china similar: semi-autonomous regions overseen by

the head state, which would be in control of law making and defense. There are many of these relationships throughout the world in various forms of government. I suppose what interesting aboutthis post is that the idea of england, wales, scotland and ireland is not unique to area, although the people who fought for these territorial divides may think so. In reality, they are probably just necessary for different ethnci ties and cultures to be able to coextist, hence why they exist. They're a reason for everything, as they say

Despite being part of Great Britain and joined with England by land, **Wales is a country in its own right**.

Why is it called England and Wales?

In 1283, **the English, led by Edward I, with the biggest army brought together in England since the 11th century, conquered the remainder of Wales, then organised as the Principality of Wales**. This was then united with the English crown by the Statute of Rhuddlan of 1284.

Why is Wales a separate country from England?

Wales is a constituent country which forms part of the United Kingdom because **it has its own government and national identity**. However, it is not a sovereign country because the UK government still has authority when it comes to law-making.

The United Kingdom (UK) is made up of England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

Is Wales its own country?

Wales is a country that forms part of the island of Great Britain. There are three countries that make up this island: Wales, and our neighbours England and Scotland.

What is Wales, exactly?

Wales is a country that forms part of the island of Great Britain. There are three countries that make up this island: Wales, and our neighbours England and Scotland.

Wales also forms part of the United Kingdom. The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (to give it its full name) is a "sovereign state" that is formed of four countries: Wales, England, Scotland, and Northern Ireland, which is situated on the island of Ireland.

How is modern Wales governed?

While Wales has its own government and parliament today, from the early 1700s until the late 1990s. Wales was ruled in law by the government of the United Kingdom (UK). Both the UK Government and Parliament are based in Westminster in London, England.

There was a public vote held in Wales in 1997 to determine whether we should have more control over our own laws and government policies.

As a result of that vote, a National Assembly for Wales was created and certain powers started to be moved (“devolved”) from Westminster to Wales.

This process continued throughout the 21st century, with further powers to make laws and collect taxes moving to Wales recently.

Today, Wales has a legislature - Senedd Cymru (the Welsh Parliament in Welsh) that is responsible for making, scrutinising and passing laws, and an executive - the Welsh Government -

responsible for making most of the day-to-day decisions that affect people who live in Wales.

Today, this means that Wales has two governments - the Welsh Government and the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, each one with power and responsibility over different things.

During the Roman occupation of Britain, the area of present-day England and Wales was administered as a single unit, except for the land to the north of Hadrian's Wall – though the Roman-occupied area varied in extent, and for a time extended to the Antonine/Severan Wall. At that time, most of the native inhabitants of Roman Britain spoke Brythonic languages, and were all regarded as Britons, divided into numerous tribes. After the conquest, the Romans administered this region as a single unit, the province of Britain.

Long after the departure of the Romans, the Britons in what became Wales developed their own system of law, first codified by Hywel Dda (Hywel the Good; reigned 942–950) when he was king of most of present-day Wales; in England Anglo-Saxon law was initially codified by Alfred the Great in his Legal Code, c. 893. However, after the Norman invasion of Wales in the 11th century, English law came to apply in the parts of Wales conquered by the Normans (the Welsh Marches). In 1283, the English, led by Edward I, with the biggest army brought together in England since the 11th century, conquered the remainder of Wales, then organised as the Principality of Wales. This was then united with the English crown by the Statute of Rhuddlan of 1284. This aimed to replace Welsh criminal law with English law.

Welsh law continued to be used for civil cases until the annexation of Wales to England in the 16th century by the Welsh House of Tudor. The Laws in Wales Acts 1535 and 1542 then consolidated the administration of all the Welsh territories and incorporated them fully into the legal system of the Kingdom of England.[1] This was in part to update outdated Welsh laws, but also to control Wales alongside England; through these acts, Wales could be seen as equals to the English,[2] this was reflected on both Henry VIII and Elizabeth I's coat of arms where the dragon represented Wales and the lion represented England,[3][*full citation needed*] but as soon as the Tudor dynasty ended with the death of Elizabeth I, the red dragon of Wales was dropped and replaced with the unicorn of Scotland with the succession of King James I who demoted Wales' status on the coat of arms and on the first adaptation of the Flag of Great Britain.[4]

Prior to 1746, it was not clear whether a reference to "England" in legislation included Wales, and so in 1746, Parliament passed the Wales and Berwick Act. This specified that in all prior and future laws, references to "England" would by default include Wales (and Berwick-upon-Tweed). The Wales and Berwick Act was repealed by the Welsh Language Act 1967, although the statutory definition of "England" created by that Act still applies for laws passed before 1967. In new legislation since then, what was referred to as "England" is now "England and Wales", while subsequent references to "England" and "Wales" refer to those political divisions.

Company registration[edit]
Main article: Companies House

For a company to be incorporated in the United Kingdom, its application for registration with Companies House must state "whether the company's registered office is to be situated in England and Wales (or in Wales), in Scotland or in Northern Ireland",[5] which will determine the law applicable to that business entity. A registered office must be specified as "in Wales" if the company wishes to use a name ending *cyfyngedig* or *cyf*, rather than *Limited* or *Ltd.* or to avail itself of certain other privileges relating to the official use of the Welsh language.

he truth is far more interesting. China is a mosaic of several distinct regions, each with its own resources, dynamics, and historical character.

As a traveler, teacher, and professional investor who has been exploring China since 1986, I've come to think of these regions as the Nine Nations of China (inspired, in part, by Joel Garreau's *Nine Nations of North America*). Taken individually, these "nations" would account for eight of the 20 most populous countries in the world.

About the Author

Patrick Chovanec (□□□) is an Associate Professor of Practice at Tsinghua University's School of Economics and Management in Beijing, China, where he teaches in the school's International MBA Program. His insights into Chinese business, economics, politics, and culture have been featured by both Chinese and international media including CNN, BBC, CNBC, *Time*, *Newsweek*, *Wall Street Journal*, *Financial Times*, *Bloomberg*, *New York Times*, *Washington Post*, *Forbes*, *Foreign Affairs*, *Foreign Policy*, *The Atlantic*, PBS, NPR, *and Al Jazeera*. He serves as Chairman of the Public Policy Development Committee for the American Chamber of Commerce in China.
Professor Chovanec has worked for several private equity funds focused on China, and continues to advise numerous fund managers, corporations, and governments. Previously, he served as director of *Institutional Investor*'s Asia Pacific Institute, based in Hong Kong, and its Global Fixed Income Institute, based in London. Prior to that, Chovanec worked in Washington, DC, as an aide to political strategist William Kristol and to Speaker of the House John Boehner. He also served for nine years as an officer in the U.S. Army Reserves.

Professor Chovanec first visited China in 1986, and has traveled to every one of its 31 provinces, as well as Taiwan. His travels have taken him to over 45 countries, including India, Pakistan, Russia, South Africa, Cuba, Vietnam, and Cambodia. He is one of only a very limited number of U.S. citizens to have visited North Korea.

He holds an BA in Economics from Princeton University and an MBA in Finance and Accounting from the University of Pennsylvania's Wharton School, where he graduated as a Palmer Scholar. He is a U.S. Certified Public Accountant (CPA).

The Nine Nations of China
The Rust Belt
Territory: 801,553 km² (8%)
Population: 109 million (8%)
Per Capita GDP: $3,724
Exports as % of GDP: 15%
Trade Surplus: $5 billion
The Yellow Land
Territory: 906,243 km² (9%)
Population: 359 million (27%)
Per Capita GDP: $3,855
Exports as % of GDP: 16%
Trade Surplus: $14 billion
The Metropolis
Territory: 216,008 km² (2%)
Population: 147 million (11%)
Per Capita GDP: $6,406
Exports as % of GDP: 58%
Trade Surplus: $119 billion
The Straits
Territory: 160,313 km² (2%)
Population: 59 million (4%)
Per Capita GDP: $9,432
Exports as % of GDP: 30%
Trade Deficit: $51 billion
The Back Door
Territory: 231,963 km² (2%)
Population: 112 million (8%)
Per Capita GDP: $6,961
Exports as % of GDP: 82%
Trade Surplus: $173 billion
The Crossroads
Territory: 707,124 km² (7%)
Population: 226 million (17%)
Per Capita GDP: $2,402
Exports as % of GDP: 6%
Trade Surplus: $6 billion
Shangri-La
Territory: 810,690 km² (8%)
Population: 132 million (10%)
*30% non-Han minorities
Per Capita GDP: $1,770
Exports as % of GDP: 6%
Trade Balance
The Refuge
Territory: 569,800 km² (6%)
Population: 110 million (8%)
Per Capita GDP: $2,302
Exports as % of GDP: 5%
Trade Surplus: $2 billion
The Frontier
Territory: 5,205,114 km² (54%)
Population: 86 million (6%)
*30% non-Han minorities
Per Capita GDP: $2,928
Exports as % of GDP: 9%
Trade Surplus: $3 billion
Copyright 2010 Patrick Chovanec

The **autonomous regions** (Chinese: □□□; pinyin: *Zìzhìqū*) are the highest-level administrative divisions of China. Like Chinese provinces, an autonomous region has its own local government, but under Chinese law, an autonomous region has more legislative rights, such as the right to "formulate self-government regulations and other separate regulations."[1] An autonomous region is the highest level of minority autonomous entity in China, which has a comparably higher population of a particular minority ethnic group.

The autonomous regions are the creations of the People's Republic of China (PRC), as they are not recognized by the Republic of China (ROC) based in Taiwan, which previously ruled Mainland China before the PRC's establishment in 1949.

History: Roman province of Britannia in 410

Roman Britain
about 410.
Routes of Caesar's expeditions to Britain (55-54 B.C.)
Roman roads.
Names of native tribes thus: Brigantes
Scale 1: 5 000 000
Miles
Long. West 2 of Greenw.
CALEDONIA (SCOTLAND)
Bodotria Aest. (Firth of Forth)
Wall of Antonine
Clyde R.
Tweed R.
Cheviot Hills
Habitancium (Risingham)
Hadrian's Wall
Pons Aelii (Newcastle)
Corstopitum (Corbridge)
Luguvallium (Carlisle)
Ituna Aest. (Solway Firth)
Vinovia (Binchester)
HIBERNIA (IRELAND)
Brocavum (Brougham)
Verterae
Cumbrian Mts.
Lavatrae
Monapia (I. of Man)
Cataractonium (Catterick)
Isurium (Aldborough)
Eboracum (York)
OCEANUS GERMANICUS (NORTH SEA OR GERMAN OCEAN)
OCEANUS HIBERNICUS (IRISH SEA)
Coccium (Ribchester)
Brigantes
Mancunium (Manchester)
Cambodunum
Mona (Anglesey)
Lindum (Lincoln)
Abus R. (Humber R.)
Conavium (Conway)
Deva (Chester)
Segontium (Carnarvon)
Coritani
Trent R.
Causennae
Uriconium (Wroxeter)
Ratae (Leicester)
Durobrivae (Castor)
Letocetum
Manduessedum
Venonae
Branodunum (Brancaster)
Venta Icenorum (Castor near Norwich)
Sitomagus
Camboricum (Cambridge)
Durolipons
Camulodunum (Colchester)
Maridunum (Carmarthen)
Gobannium (Abergavenny)
Glevum (Gloucester)
Verulamium (St. Albans)
Trinobantes
Cornium (Cirencester)
Londinium (London)
Isca Silurum (Caerleon)
Venta Silurum (Caerwent)
Nidum (Neath)
Sabrina Aest. (Bristol Channel)
Aquae Solis (Bath)
Spinae (Speen)
Calleva (Silchester)
Durobrivae (Rochester)
Durovernum (Canterbury)
Rutupiae (Richborough)
Sorbiodunum (Old Sarum)
Venta Belgarum (Winchester)
Vindogladia
Clausentum (Bitterne)
Anderida (Pevensey)
Isca Dumnoniorum (Exeter)
Durnovaria (Dorchester)
Portus Magnus (Portsmouth Harbor)
Vectis (I. of Wight)
OCEANUS BRITANNICUS (ENGLISH CHANNEL)
Saxonicum Litus (Saxon Shore)
Gesoriacum (Boulogne)
Dubris (Dover)
Portus Lemanis (Lympne)
Rutupiae (Richborough)
Thames R.
Thamesis Aest.
Regnum (Chichester)
Dumnonii
Durotriges
Belgae
Atrebates
Cantii
Regni
Iceni
Cornavii
Dobunni
Silures
Demetae
Ordovices
Cambrian Mts.
Severn R.
Fosse Way
Watling Street
Ermine Street
Icknield Way
Akeman Street
Portway
Julian's Road
Foss Way
Mersey R.
Ouse R.
Humber R.
Ouse R.
Medway R.
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government: feb12 Fiery UK Anti-Refugee Protest Erupts After Minor Girl Records Adult Migrant's Proposition, thousands seen on twitter in massive crowds, 15 arrested, police cars damaged, fires..

Fiery UK Anti-Refugee Protest Erupts After Minor Girl Records Adult Migrant's Proposition

BY TYLER DURDEN
SUNDAY, FEB 12, 2023 - 09:45 AM

A peaceful protest outside a UK hotel housing asylum-seekers turned violent on Friday evening **as protestors -- enraged over a recording of an alleged proposition of a minor English girl by a migrant -- reportedly threw bricks and set a police van on fire.**

Three people were arrested in the uproar that took place next to the Suites Hotel in the borough of Knowsley, Merseyside, near Liverpool. No serious injuries were reported.

For officers and police vehicles to be damaged in the course of their duty protecting the public is disgraceful**,"** said Assistant Chief Constable Paul White.

The protest was sparked by a video posted this week by a 15-year-old British girl. **She says it captures a self-proclaimed 25-year-old migrant propositioning her -- and persisting even after she tells him she's ten years younger.**

When the girl says, "I'm only 15," the migrant replies, "Okay, good."

"That's not good," says the girl. "You don't do this in this country…you go to jail if you do this."

War, china: feb12 Now China Claims It's Tracking Unidentified Object Over Port City

Now China Claims It's Tracking Unidentified Object Over Port City

BY TYLER DURDEN
SUNDAY, FEB 12, 2023 - 10:55 AM

Now China is jumping in on the trend, apparently, as authorities in China say they have spotted and are tracking an unidentified object over waters near the port city of Qingdao.

Scant details have been given, but the claim was briefly detailed in *Bloomberg* on Sunday, with the publication saying authorities are **preparing to down the object**.

Area fisherman and boats in the port waters have been alerted and told to follow safety precautions due to the object, which is hovering at an unknown altitude.

According to the report:

An employee at the marine development authority of Qingdao's Jimo district said "relevant authorities" are preparing to bring down the object, the report said. The employee was not informed what the object was.

By the vague description, it could be a balloon of some type, or **alternately perhaps the Chinese are attempting to hype their own "foreign threat" news story as a counter** following the Pentagon shooting down the Chinese 'spy' balloon, which Beijing has maintained all along was just a weather research platform.

As for the now recovered balloon which was shot down over a week ago Saturday off the US east coast, it is undergoing FBI analysis. However, the undercarriage, which US officials say contained surveillance gear, has yet to be lifted from the ocean, and is said to be large - at least 30 feet across.

And then there's the bizarre couple of incidents over far northern parts of the American continent...

War, Erdogan: feb12 Turkey Arrests 130 Building Contractors As Earthquake Deaths Surpass 28,000

Turkey Arrests 130 Building Contractors As Earthquake Deaths Surpass 28,000

BY TYLER DURDEN
SUNDAY, FEB 12, 2023 - 12:00 PM

The death toll from the Turkey-Syria earthquake **soared past 28,000 killed this weekend**, and many more thousands may still be buried under the rubble, as in many areas of the sprawling disaster zone, at hundreds of miles wide, rescue operations have only barely begun.

Turkish officials estimate that around 25,000 buildings either totally collapsed or were severely damaged in the earthquake, and that more already shaken buildings could potentially collapse as a result of aftershocks and tremors.

But in a new development, "Approximately **130 people were arrested** or are the target of arrest warrants issued by Turkish officials for their involvement in **alleged faulty and illegal construction methods** as rescue teams work to locate survivors in the wreckage of thousands of buildings downed by an earthquake nearly a week ago," *The Hill* reports based on regional sources.

The arrest round-up is said to be the first major action of of the newly established "Earthquake Crimes Investigation Offices" which will investigate malfeasance which contributed to the high numbers of buildings that collapsed.

"We will follow this up meticulously until the necessary judicial process is concluded, especially for buildings that suffered heavy damage and buildings that caused deaths and injuries," a Turkish official said.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has vowed a tough response amid public finger-pointing and outrage among victims' families, also given the sheer scale of the massive catastrophe, which left entire cities demolished - for example the major city of Antakya in Hatay province.

The earthquake response is sure to be a front and center issue as the Erdogan government heads into tough parliamentary and presidential elections set for May.

History, government: the Louisiana purchase: acquisition of the territory of Louisiana by the United States from the French First Republic in 1803; Kingdom of France had controlled the Louisiana territory from 1699 until it was ceded to Spain in 1762. In 1800, Napoleon, the First Consul of the French Republic, regained ownership of Louisiana as part of a broader effort to re-establish a French colonial empire in North America.

The **Louisiana Purchase** (French: *Vente de la Louisiane*, lit. 'Sale of Louisiana') was the acquisition of the territory of Louisiana by the United States from the French First Republic in 1803. In return for fifteen million dollars, or approximately eighteen dollars per square mile, the United States nominally acquired a total of 828,000 sq mi (2,140,000 km²; 530,000,000 acres) in Middle America. However, France only controlled a small fraction of this area, most of which was inhabited by Native Americans; effectively, for the majority of the area, the United States bought the "preemptive" right to obtain "Indian" lands by treaty or by conquest, to the exclusion of other colonial powers.[1][2]

The Kingdom of France had controlled the Louisiana territory from 1699 until it was ceded to Spain in 1762. In 1800, Napoleon, the First Consul of the French Republic, regained ownership of Louisiana as part of a broader effort to re-establish a French colonial empire in North America. However, France's failure to suppress a revolt in Saint-Domingue, coupled with the prospect of renewed warfare with the United Kingdom, prompted Napoleon to consider selling Louisiana to the United States. Acquisition of Louisiana was a long-term goal of President Thomas Jefferson, who was especially eager to gain control of the crucial Mississippi River port of New Orleans. Jefferson tasked James Monroe and Robert R. Livingston with purchasing New Orleans. Negotiating with French Treasury Minister François Barbé-Marbois, the American representatives quickly agreed to purchase the entire territory of Louisiana after it was offered. Overcoming the opposition of the Federalist Party, Jefferson and Secretary of State James Madison persuaded Congress to ratify and fund the Louisiana Purchase.

The Louisiana Purchase extended United States sovereignty across the Mississippi River, nearly doubling the nominal size of the country. The purchase included land from fifteen

present U.S. states and two Canadian provinces, including the entirety of Arkansas, Missouri, Iowa, Oklahoma, Kansas, and Nebraska; large portions of North Dakota and South Dakota; the area of Montana, Wyoming, and Colorado east of the Continental Divide; the portion of Minnesota west of the Mississippi River; the northeastern section of New Mexico; northern portions of Texas; New Orleans and the portions of the present state of Louisiana west of the Mississippi River; and small portions of land within Alberta and Saskatchewan. At the time of the purchase, the territory of Louisiana's non-native population was around 60,000 inhabitants, of whom half were enslaved Africans.[3] The western borders of the purchase were later settled by the 1819 Adams–Onís Treaty with Spain, while the northern borders of the purchase were adjusted by the Treaty of 1818 with Britain.

History: key slavic history: Great Moravia: first major state that was predominantly West Slavic to emerge in the area of Central Europe,[4] possibly including territories which are today part of the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary, Austria, Germany, Poland, Romania, Croatia, Serbia and Ukraine. The only formation preceding it in these territories was Samo's tribal union known from between 631 and 658 AD.

Its core territory is the region now called Moravia in the eastern part of the Czech Republic alongside the Morava River, which gave its name to the kingdom. The kingdom saw the rise of the first ever Slavic literary culture in the Old Church Slavonic language as well as the expansion of Christianity, first via missionaries from East Francia, and later after the arrival of Saints Cyril and Methodius in 863 and the creation of the Glagolitic alphabet, the first alphabet dedicated to a Slavic language. Glagolitic was subsequently replaced by a simpler Cyrillic.

Although the borders of his empire cannot be exactly determined, Moravia reached its largest territorial extent under prince Svatopluk I (Slovak: *Svätopluk*), who ruled from 870 to 894. Separatism and internal conflicts emerging after Svatopluk's death contributed to the fall of Great Moravia, which was overrun by the Hungarians, who then included the territory of present-day Slovakia in their domains. The exact date of Moravia's collapse is unknown, but it occurred between 902 and 907.

After the fall of Great Moravia, its central territory was gradually divided between the newly ascending Kingdom of Bohemia and Hungarian Kingdom. The frontier was originally settled on the Morava river. However, from the 12th century, the Czech kings managed to gain more and more of the region on the eastern bank, eventually gaining the whole stretch of the eastern territory from Uherské Hradiště down to Strážnice along the White Carpathians. The original core territory of Great Moravia, nowadays forming

the eastern part of Moravia and situated between the White Carpathians and the Chřiby mountains, has retained its non-Czech identity in its designation "Slovácko" which shows common origins with the name of the neighbouring Slovakia—a token of a past shared identity in Great Moravian times.

Nevertheless, the extent, and even the very location of Great Moravia (historiographical terms, as its original formal name is unknown) are a subject of debate.[11] Rival theories place its centre south of the Danube (the Morava in Serbia) or on the Great Hungarian Plain.[23] The exact date when the Moravian state was founded is also disputed, but it probably occurred in the early 830s under Prince Mojmír I (r. 820s/830s–846), the first known ruler of the united Moravia. Mojmír and his successor, Rastislav ("Rostislav" in Czech), who ruled from 846 to 870, initially acknowledged the suzerainty of the Carolingian monarchs, but the Moravian fight for independence caused a series of armed conflicts with East Francia from the 840s.

Traditional view[edit]

According to most historians, the core territories of Moravia were located in the valley of the river Morava, today in present-day Czech Republic and Slovakia

The earliest possible reference to Slavic tribes living in the valley of the northern Morava river was made by the Byzantine historian Procopius.[49] He wrote of a group of Germanic Heruli who "passed through the territory of all of the Sclavenes" while moving towards Denmark in 512.[50] Archaeological sites have yielded hand-made ceramics,[51] and closely analogous objects in southern Poland and western Ukraine appeared at the confluence of the northern Morava River and the Middle Danube, dated to around 550.[52]

Large territories in the Pannonian Basin were conquered after 568 by the nomadic Avars who had arrived from the Eurasian Steppes.[49][53] The Slavs were forced to pay tribute to the Avars and to participate in their raids against the Byzantine Empire, the Franks and the Lombards.[49]

Written sources from the 9th century contain almost no information on the internal affairs of Moravia.[14] Only two legal texts—the *Nomocanon* and the *Court Law for the People*—have been preserved.[14][142] The former is a translation of a collection of Byzantine ecclesiastical law; the latter is based on the 8th-century Byzantine law code known as *Ecloga*.[142][143] Both were completed by Methodius shortly before his death in 885.[142]

check republic: why its name always changes, I guess. good stuff though

Bohemia was a duchy of Great Moravia, later an independent principality, a kingdom in the Holy Roman Empire, and subsequently a part of the Habsburg monarchy and the Austrian Empire.[5] After World War I and the establishment of an independent Czechoslovak state, the whole of Bohemia became a part of Czechoslovakia, defying claims of the German-speaking inhabitants that regions with German-speaking majority should be included in the Republic of German-Austria. Between 1938 and 1945, these border regions were joined to Nazi Germany as the Sudetenland.[6]

The remainder of Czech territory became the Second Czechoslovak Republic, and was subsequently occupied as the Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia until the end of World War II, after which Bohemia became part of the restored Czechoslovakia. In 1969, the Czech lands (including Bohemia) were given autonomy within Czechoslovakia as the Czech Socialist Republic. In 1990, the name was changed to the Czech Republic, which became a separate state in 1993 with the breakup of Czechoslovakia.[6]

Until 1948, Bohemia was an administrative unit of Czechoslovakia as one of its "lands" (*země*).[7] Since then, administrative reforms have replaced self-governing lands with a modified system of "regions" (*kraje*), which do not follow the borders of the historical Czech lands (or the regions from the 1960 and 2000 reforms).[7] However, the three lands are mentioned in the preamble of the Constitution of the Czech Republic: "We, citizens of the Czech Republic in Bohemia, Moravia and Silesia..."[8]

The **Lands of the Bohemian Crown** were a number of incorporated states in Central Europe during the medieval and early modern periods connected by feudal relations under the Bohemian kings. The crown lands primarily consisted of the Kingdom of Bohemia, an electorate of the Holy Roman Empire according to the Golden Bull of 1356, the Margraviate of Moravia, the Duchies of Silesia, and the two Lusatias, known as the Margraviate of Upper Lusatia and the Margraviate of Lower Lusatia, as well as other territories throughout its history. This agglomeration of states nominally under the rule of the Bohemian kings was historically referred to simply as **Bohemia**.[1] They are now sometimes referred to in scholarship as the **Czech lands**, a direct translation of the Czech abbreviated name.

The joint rule of *Corona regni Bohemiae* was legally established by decree of King Charles IV issued on 7 April 1348, on the foundation of the original Czech lands ruled by the Přemyslid dynasty until 1306. By linking the territories, the interconnection of crown lands thus no more belonged to a king or a dynasty but to the Bohemian monarchy itself, symbolically personalized by the Crown of Saint Wenceslas. During the reign of King Ferdinand I from 1526, the lands of the Bohemian Crown became a constituent part of the Habsburg monarchy.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lands_of_the_Bohemian_Crown

early modern period was from muslim conquest of constantinople and ending with napoleans rise to power

A Japanese depiction of a Portuguese trading carrack. Advances in shipbuilding technology during the Late Middle Ages would pave the way for the global European presence characteristic of the early modern period.

interesting view of a map of europe from the year 1700

early modern period key events

800 (most often 1815). Particular facets of early modernity include:

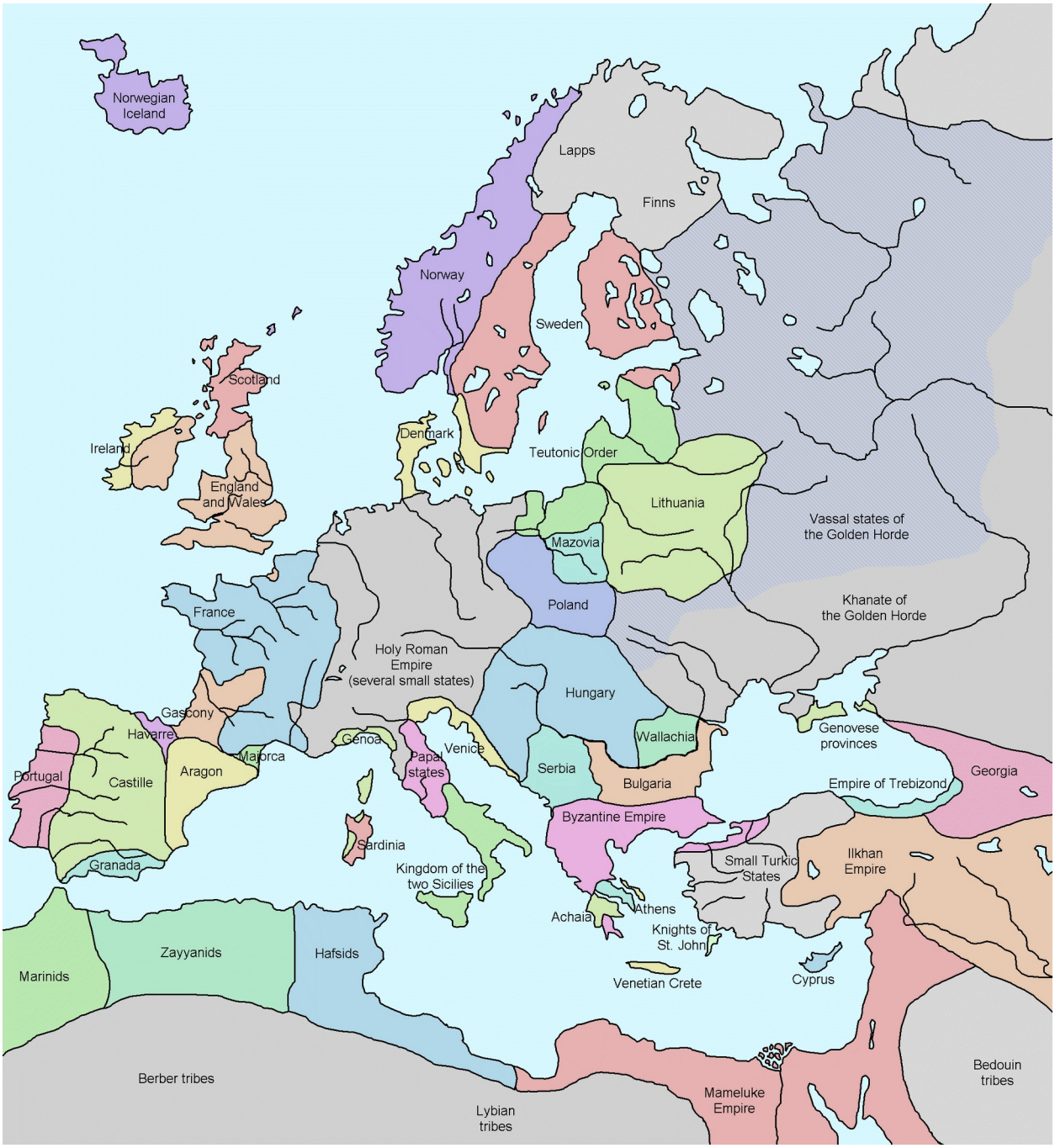
- The rise of the Ottoman Empire
- The Reformation and Counter-Reformation
- The Sengoku and Sakoku period
- The Spanish Reconquista
- The Age of Discovery
- Influence of Mughal politics and culture over India
- The spread of Islam in Indonesia
- The Columbian exchange and European colonization of the Americas
- The Atlantic slave trade

- The rise of mercantilism and capitalism
- The Golden Age of Piracy
- Stagnation of the Ottoman Empire
- High Qing period

Important events in the early modern period include:

- The spread of the printing press (c. 1460)
- Independence and influence of the Deccan Sultanates (1490–1687)[note 1]
- Ottoman–Persian Wars (1519–1823)
- The Thirty Years' War (1618–1648) and the Peace of Westphalia (1648) in Europe
- Transition from Ming to Qing (1618–1683)
- The English Civil War (1642–1651), the Glorious Revolution (1688–1689), and the union of Great Britain (1707)
- Mughal–Maratha Wars (1680–1707)
- The Seven Years' War (1756–1763) in Europe and North America
- Development of the Watt steam engine (1763–1775)
- The American War of Independence from the British Empire (1775–1783)
- The French Revolution (1789–1799) and the Napoleonic Wars in Europe (1803–1815)
- The Congress of Vienna at the end of the Napoleonic Wars
- Latin American wars of independence (c. early 19th century)

history, holy roman empire, journal: nice map from 1328 shows territorial lines of the Holy Roman Empire



Journal, history, church, holy roman empire, fall of rome: Baptism of Poland in 966, Mieszko converts to Christianity..soviets block pope from visiting poland when they attempt to celebrate 1000 years of Christianity

this shows how the church spread its influence: by providing support to smaller nations, similar to the clients states backed by the United States or

Russia today. These smaller nations, at least the time, lacked the same expertise, knowledge, and resources as the Holy Roman Empire, and thus, people could be used by the church within the nation to subvert the local customs, which would hopefully lead to eventual assimilation.

Baptism[edit]

Mieszko I, the first Christian ruler of Poland. Depicted by Jan Matejko as holding a crucifix in an allusion to the Baptism of Poland.

"The Baptism of Poland" refers to the ceremony when the first ruler of the Polish state, Mieszko I, and much of his court converted to the Christian religion.[5][8] Mieszko's wife Dobrawa of Bohemia, a zealous Christian, played a significant role in promoting Christianity in Poland, and might have had a significant influence on converting Mieszko himself.[1][7]

The exact place of Mieszko's baptism is disputed; Most historians argue that Gniezno or Poznań are the most likely sites.[7][10] However, other historians have suggested alternative locations, such as Ostrów Lednicki, or even in German Regensburg.[10] The date of Mieszko's baptism was 14 April 966, Holy Saturday.[7]

The ceremony was preceded by a week of oral catechism and several days of fasting. The actual ceremony involved pouring water over the segregated groups of men and women, although it is possible that their heads were immersed instead, and anointed with the chrism.[7]

Christianization of Poland[edit]

The baptismal mission which began in the two major cities of Gniezno and Poznań with the baptism of Mieszko and his court spread throughout the country.[7] During the 10th and 11th centuries various ecclesiastical organs were established in Poland.[3][5] This included the building of churches and the appointment of clergy.[3][7] The first Bishop of Poland, Jordan, was appointed by Pope John XIII in 968.[7] Mieszko's son Bolesław I Chrobry supported Christianization missions to neighboring lands, notably the mission of future Saint Adalbert of Prague to Old Prussians, and established the Archbishopric of Gniezno in the year 1000.[8]

Although at first the Christian religion was "unpopular and alien", Mieszko's baptism was highly influential[3] but needed to be enforced by the state, and ran into some popular opposition, including an uprising in the 1030s (particularly intense in the years of 1035–1037).[5][9] Nonetheless, by that time Poland had won recognition as a proper European state, from both the papacy and the Holy Roman Empire.[11]

Out of various provinces of today's Poland, Christianity's spread was slowest in Pomerania, where it gained a significant following only around the 12th century.[5] Initially, the clergy came from the Western Christian European countries; native Polish clergy took three or four generations to emerge, and were supported by the monasteries and friars that grew increasingly common in the 12th century.[3] By the 13th century Roman Catholicism had become the dominant religion throughout Poland.[3]

In adopting Christianity as the state religion, Mieszko sought to achieve several personal goals.[5] He saw Poland's baptism as a way of strengthening his hold on power, as well as using it as a unifying force for the Polish people.[5][8] It replaced several smaller cults with a single, central one, clearly associated with the royal court.[7] It would also improve the position and respectability of the Polish state on the international, European scene.[7][8] The Church also helped to strengthen the monarch's authority and brought to Poland much experience with regard to state administration. Thus, the Church organisation supported the state, and in return, bishops received important government titles (in the later era, they were members of the Senate of Poland).[5]

In 1966, the People's Republic of Poland witnessed large festivities on the 1,000th anniversary of those events, with the Church celebrating the 1,000 years of Christianity in Poland, while the Communist government celebrated the secular 1,000 years of the Polish State, culminated in twice denying Pope Paul VI permission to visit Poland that

year. The desire of the Communist party to separate religion from the state made the festivities a culture clash between the state and the Church. While the Church was focusing on the religious, ecclesiastical aspects of the baptism, with slogans (in Latin) like *Sacrum Poloniae Millenium* (Poland's Sacred Millennium), the Communist Party was framing the celebrations as a secular, political anniversary of the creation of the Polish state, with slogans (in Polish) like *Tysiąclecie Państwa Polskiego* (A Thousand Years of the Polish State). As Norman Davies noted, both the Church and the Party had "rival, and mutually exclusive, interpretations of [Poland's baptism] significance".[12]

On 30 July 1966, the U.S. Bureau of Engraving and Printing issued 128,475,000 commemorative stamps honoring the millennium anniversary of the adoption of Christianity in Poland.[13]

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Christianization_of_Poland#Baptism

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Piast_dynasty

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_Poland_during_the_Piast_dynasty

History of Civilization in Poland

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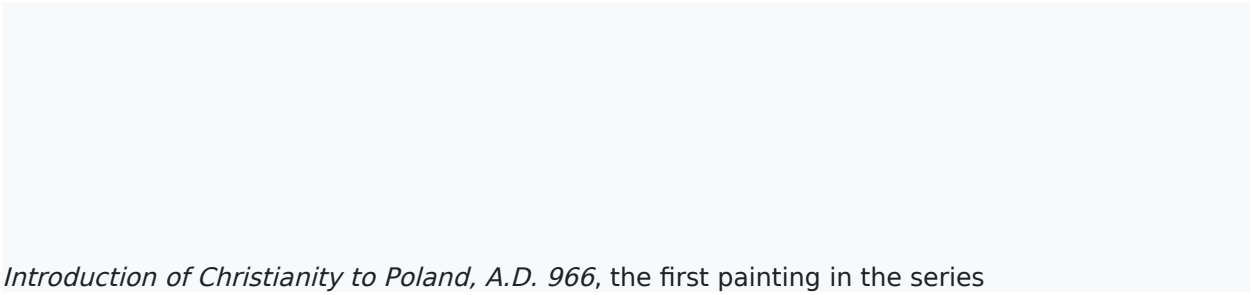
(Redirected from Christianization of Poland A.D. 966.)



Introduction of Christianity to Poland, A.D. 966, the first painting in the series

History of Civilization in Poland (Polish: ***Dzieje Cywilizacji w Polsce***) is a cycle of twelve oil sketches on canvas and wood, created by the Polish nominal painter Jan Matejko in 1889 with accompanying commentaries. The originals are kept at the Museum of the Royal Castle, Warsaw.[1]

History[edit]

Matejko created his series along with an accompanying commentary in part to fulfill a set of research requirements for his new academic title, the degree of Doctor of Philosophy honoris causa, which he received from the Jagiellonian University.[2][3] Much of the imagery of the cycle has been inspired by the lectures of historian Józef Szujski which Matejko might have attended around 1877–1878, or read in print afterward.[4]

The works in the series[edit]

The cycle consists of the following paintings:

#	Title
1.	*Zaprowadzenie chrześcijaństwa* (Adoption of Christianity) 1889, oil on wood panel, 79cm x 120cm
2.	*Koronacja pierwszego króla* (Coronation of the First King) 1889, oil on wood panel, 71cm x 105cm
3.	*Przyjęcie Żydów* (Reception of the Jews) 1889, oil on canvas, 76cm x 112cm
4.	*W Łęczycy pierwszy sejm - Spisanie praw - Ukrócenie rozbojów* (The First Parliament in Łęczyca) 1888, oil on wood panel, 74cm x 110cm
5.	*Klęska Legnicka - Odrodzenie* (Defeat at Legnica) 1888, oil on wood panel, 74.5cm x 109.5cm
6.	*Powtórne zajęcie Rusi - Bogactwo i oświata* (Retaking of Rus) 1888, oil on wood panel, 79.5cm x 110cm
7.	*Założenie Szkoły Głównej przeniesieniem do Krakowa ugruntowane* (Founding of the Academy) 1889, oil on wood panel, 79.5cm x 62cm
8.	*Chrzest Litwy* (The Baptism of Lithuania) 1889, oil on canvas, 60cm x 115.5cm
9.	*Wpływ Uniwersytetu na kraj w wieku XV - Nowe prądy - Husytyzm i Humanizm* (New Trends in the 15 Century Poland) 1889, oil on wood panel, 69cm x 116cm
10.	*Złoty wiek literatury w XVI wieku - Reformacja - Przewaga katolicyzmu* (The Golden Age in Literature) 1889, oil on wood panel, 69cm x 107cm
11.	*Potęga Rzeczypospolitej u zenitu - Złota wolność - Elekcja* (Power of Commonwealth at its Zenith) 1889, oil on canvas, 72.5cm x 113cm
12.	*Konstytucja 3 maja - Sejm Czteroletni - Komisja Edukacyjna* (Constitution of the 3 May) 1889, oil on wood panel, 79cm x 120cm • Another painting, not based on this sketch, *Constitution of May 3, 1791*, was completed in 1891.

Piast dynasty

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This article is about a Polish dynasty. For other uses, see Piast (disambiguation).

Piast	
Country	• Kingdom of Poland • Kingdom of Galicia–Volhynia • Duchy of Mazovia • Duchy of Silesia • Duchies of Silesia • Duchy of Bohemia
Founded	c. 960
Founder	Mieszko I of Poland
Final ruler	Casimir the Great, in the Kingdom of Poland, and George IV William of Legnica, in the Silesian duchies
Titles	• King of Poland • King of Ruthenia • Duke of the Polans • Duke of Poland • Duke of Krakow • Duke of Kuyavia • Duke of Mazovia • Duke of Sandomierz • Duke of Greater Poland • Duke of Silesia • Duke of Sieradz-Łęczyca • Duke of Bohemia
Dissoluti	1370, in the Kingdom of Poland, and 1675, in

on	the Duchies of Silesia
Branches	• Silesian Piasts, the agnatically senior and later last surviving branch of the dynasty • Masovian Piasts • House of Griffins[1][2] (uncertain)

The **House of Piast** was the first historical ruling dynasty of Poland.[3] The first documented Polish monarch was Duke Mieszko I (c. 930–992).[4] The Piasts' royal rule in Poland ended in 1370 with the death of king Casimir III the Great.

Branches of the Piast dynasty continued to rule in the Duchy of Masovia and in the Duchies of Silesia until the last male Silesian Piast died in 1675. The Piasts intermarried with several noble lines of Europe, and possessed numerous titles, some within the Holy Roman Empire. The Jagiellonian kings after John I Albert were also descended in the female line from Casimir III's daughter.

Inquisition, famous trial was galileo in 1633..

During the Late Middle Ages and the early Renaissance, the scope of the Inquisition grew significantly in response to the Protestant Reformation and the Catholic Counter-Reformation. During this period, the Inquisition conducted by the Holy See was known as the Roman Inquisition. The Inquisition also expanded to other European countries,[5] resulting in the Spanish Inquisition and the Portuguese Inquisition. The Spanish and Portuguese Inquisitions focused particularly on the anusim (people who were forced to abandon Judaism against their will) and on Muslim converts to Catholicism. The scale of the persecution of converted Muslims and converted Jews in Spain and Portugal was the result of suspicions that they had secretly reverted to their previous religions, although both religious minority groups were also more numerous on the Iberian Peninsula than in other parts of Europe.

During this time, Spain and Portugal operated inquisitorial courts not only in Europe, but also throughout their empires in Africa, Asia, and the Americas. This resulted in the Goa Inquisition, the Peruvian Inquisition, and the Mexican Inquisition, among others.[6]

With the exception of the Papal States, the institution of the Inquisition was abolished in the early 19th century, after the Napoleonic Wars in Europe and the Spanish American wars of independence in the Americas. The institution survived as part of the Roman Curia, but in 1908 it was renamed the Supreme Sacred Congregation of the Holy Office. In 1965, it became the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith.[7]

With the Protestant Reformation, Catholic authorities became much more ready to suspect heresy in any new ideas,[50] including those of Renaissance humanism,[51] previously strongly supported by many at the top of the Church hierarchy. The extirpation of heretics became a much broader and more complex enterprise, complicated by the politics of territorial Protestant powers, especially in northern

Europe. The Catholic Church could no longer exercise direct influence in the politics and justice-systems of lands that officially adopted Protestantism. Thus war (the French Wars of Religion, the Thirty Years' War), massacre (the St. Bartholomew's Day massacre) and the missional[52] and propaganda work (by the *Sacra congregatio de propaganda fide*)[53] of the Counter-Reformation came to play larger roles in these circumstances, and the Roman law type of a "judicial" approach to heresy represented by the Inquisition became less important overall. In 1542 Pope Paul III established the Congregation of the Holy Office of the Inquisition as a permanent congregation staffed with cardinals and other officials. It had the tasks of maintaining and defending the integrity of the faith and of examining and proscribing errors and false doctrines; it thus became the supervisory body of local Inquisitions.[54] A famous case tried by the Roman Inquisition was that of Galileo Galilei in 1633.

holy roman empire, history, journal, stats: catholic counter-reformation: "Counter-Reformation, or Catholic Reformation, In Roman Catholicism, efforts in the 16th and early 17th centuries to oppose the Protestant Reformation and reform the Catholic church. Early efforts grew out of criticism of the worldliness and corruption of the papacy and clergy during the Renaissance."

Paul III (r. 1534–49) was the first pope to respond, convening the important Council of Trent (1545–63), which reacted to Protestant teachings on faith, grace, and the sacraments and attempted to reform training for the priesthood. The Roman Inquisition was established in 1542 to control heresy within Catholic territories, and the Jesuits under St. Ignatius of Loyola undertook educational and missionary work aimed at conversion or reconversion. Emperors Charles V and Philip II took military action against Protestant growth. Later popes of the Counter-Reformation included Pius V, Gregory XIII, and Sixtus V. Saints Charles Borromeo, Philip Neri, John of the Cross, Teresa of Ávila, Francis de Sales, and Vincent de Paul were among the most influential reforming figures.

The Roman Inquisition began in 1542 as part of the Catholic Church's Counter-Reformation against the spread of Protestantism, but it represented a less harsh affair than the previously established Spanish Inquisition.[3] In 1588,[4] Pope Sixtus V established, with *Immensa Aeterni Dei*, 15 congregations of the Roman Curia of which the Supreme Sacred Congregation of the Roman and Universal Inquisition was one. In

1908, the congregation was renamed the Supreme Sacred Congregation of the Holy Office and in 1965 it was renamed again and is now known as the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith.

While the Roman Inquisition was originally designed to combat the spread of Protestantism in Italy, the institution outlived that original purpose and the system of tribunals lasted until the mid 18th century, when pre-unification Italian states began to suppress the local inquisitions, effectively eliminating the power of the church to prosecute heretical crimes.

Roman Inquisition

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The **Roman Inquisition**, formally the **Supreme Sacred Congregation of the Roman and Universal Inquisition**, was a system of partisan tribunals developed by the Holy See of the Roman Catholic Church, during the second half of the 16th century, responsible for prosecuting individuals accused of a wide array of crimes according to Roman Catholic law and doctrine, relating to catholic religious life or alternative religious or secular beliefs. It was established in 1542 by the leader of the Roman Catholic Church, Pope Paul III. In the period after the Medieval Inquisition, it was one of three different manifestations of the wider Catholic Inquisition along with the Spanish Inquisition and Portuguese Inquisition.

Function and functioning[edit]

Main function of the institution was to maintain and implement papal bulls and other church rulings, in addition to their function of administering legalistic ramifications upon deviants of Catholic orthodoxy within states that cooperated with the pope and ostensibly exhibiting proper procedure to Catholic states in the process of formulating the Counter-Reformation.[1] The papal bull *Ad abolendam*, by Lucius III, prescribed penalties for heretical clerics and laymen and established a procedure of systematic inquisition by bishops; the third canon of the fourth Lateran Concile (1215) specified procedures against heretics and their accomplices. Clerics were to be degraded from their orders, lay persons were to be branded as infamous and not be admitted to public offices or councils or to run a business, will not have the freedom to make a will nor shall succeed to an inheritance, goods were to be confiscated. A secular leader who "neglects to cleanse his territory of this heretical filth" would be excommunicated and the supreme pontiff could declare his vassals absolved from their fealty to him and make the land available for occupation by Catholics who would possess it unopposed and preserve it in the purity of the faith.[2]

The organisational system of the Roman Inquisition did differ essentially from that of the Medieval Inquisition. Typically, the pope appointed one cardinal to preside over meetings of the Congregation. Though often referred to in historical literature as *Grand Inquisitors*, the role was substantially different from the formally appointed Grand Inquisitor of the Spanish Inquisition. There were usually ten other cardinals who were members of the Congregation, as well as a prelate and two assistants all chosen from the Dominican Order. The Holy Office also had an international group of consultants; experienced scholars of theology and canon law who advised on specific questions. The congregation, in turn, presided over the activity of local tribunals.

History[edit]

The Roman Inquisition began in 1542 as part of the Catholic Church's Counter-Reformation against the spread of Protestantism, but it represented a less harsh affair than the previously established Spanish Inquisition.[3] In 1588,[4] Pope Sixtus V established, with *Immensa Aeterni Dei*, 15 congregations of the Roman Curia of which the Supreme Sacred Congregation of the Roman and Universal Inquisition was one. In 1908, the congregation was renamed the Supreme Sacred Congregation of the Holy Office and in 1965 it was renamed again and is now known as the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith.

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Holy roman empire, history: plague timeline: The second plague pandemic was a major series of epidemics of plague that started with the Black Death, which reached Europe in 1348 and killed up to half of the population of Eurasia in the next four years. Although the plague died out in most places, it became endemic and recurred regularly. A series of major epidemics occurred in the late 17th-century,

There have been three major outbreaks of plague. The Plague of Justinian in the 6th and 7th centuries is the first known attack on record, and marks the first firmly recorded pattern of plague. From historical descriptions, as much as 40% of the population of Constantinople died from the plague. Modern estimates suggest that half of Europe's population died as a result of this first plague pandemic before it disappeared in the 700s.[5] After 750, plague did not appear again in Europe until the Black Death of the 14th-century.[6]

The second pandemic's origins are disputed; originating either in Central Asia or Crimea,[7][8][9][10][11][12][13] and appearing in Crimea by 1347. It may have reduced world population from an estimated 450 million to 350–375 million by the year 1400.[14] A study published in the journal *Nature* in June 2022 found evidence for *Yersinia pestis* in the teeth of early plague victims in the Tian Shan mountains, now north Kyrgyzstan, indicating a likely origin of that iteration of the plague.[15]

The plague returned at intervals with varying virulence and mortality until the early 19th-century. In England, for example, the plague returned between 1360 and 1363, killing 20% of Londoners, and then again in 1369, killing 10–15%.[16]

In the 16th-century, the plague hit San Cristóbal de La Laguna in the Canary Islands between 1582 and 1583.[17]

In the 17th-century, there were a series of "great plague" outbreaks: the Great Plague of Seville between 1647 and 1652, the Great Plague of London between 1665 and 1666,[18] and the Great Plague of Vienna in 1679.

In the 18th-century, there was the Great Plague of Marseille, which took place between 1720 and 1722;[19] the Great Plague of 1738, which occurred in Eastern Europe between 1738 and 1740; and the Russian plague of 1770–1772, which took place in Central Russia, and particularly affected Moscow. However, the plague in its virulent form seemed to gradually disappear from Europe, though lingering in Egypt and the Middle East.

By the early 19th-century, the threat of plague had diminished, though it was quickly replaced by the spread of another deadly, infectious disease in the first cholera pandemic, beginning in 1817; the first of several cholera pandemics to sweep through Asia and Europe during the 19th and 20th centuries.[20]

The third plague pandemic hit China in the 1890s and devastated India. While it was largely contained in the East, it became endemic in the western United States, where sporadic outbreaks of plague continue to occur.[11]

Black Death[edit]

The **Black Death** (also known as the **Pestilence**, the **Great Mortality** or the **Plague**)[a] was a bubonic plague pandemic occurring in Western Eurasia and North Africa from 1346 to 1353. It is the most fatal pandemic recorded in human history, causing the deaths of 75–200 million people,[1] peaking in Europe from 1347 to 1351.[2][3]

The Black Death was the second great natural disaster to strike Europe during the Late Middle Ages (the first one being the Great Famine of 1315–1317) and is estimated to have killed 30 percent to 60 percent of the European population, as well as about one-third of the population of the Middle East; European population did not regain its level in 1300 until 1500

mini outbreaks recurred throughout history. rough timeline was provided on wikipedia

The plague repeatedly returned to haunt Europe and the Mediterranean throughout the 14th to 17th centuries.[159] According to Jean-Noël Biraben, the plague was present somewhere in Europe in every year between 1346 and 1671.[160] (Note that some

researchers have cautions about the uncritical use of Biraben's data.[161]) The second pandemic was particularly widespread in the following years: 1360–63; 1374; 1400; 1438–39; 1456–57; 1464–66; 1481–85; 1500–03; 1518–31; 1544–48; 1563–66; 1573–88; 1596–99; 1602–11; 1623–40; 1644–54; and 1664–67. Subsequent outbreaks, though severe, marked the retreat from most of Europe (18th century) and northern Africa (19th century).[162] The historian George Sussman argued that the plague had not occurred in East Africa until the 1900s.[83] However, other sources suggest that the Second pandemic did indeed reach Sub-Saharan Africa.[108]

According to historian Geoffrey Parker, "France alone lost almost a million people to the plague in the epidemic of 1628–31."[163] In the first half of the 17th century, a plague killed some 1.7 million people in Italy.[164] More than 1.25 million deaths resulted from the extreme incidence of plague in 17th-century Spain.[165]

The Black Death ravaged much of the Islamic world.[166] Plague was present in at least one location in the Islamic world virtually every year between 1500 and 1850.[167] Plague repeatedly struck the cities of North Africa. Algiers lost 30,000–50,000 inhabitants to it in 1620–21, and again in 1654–57, 1665, 1691, and 1740–42.[168] Cairo suffered more than fifty plague epidemics within 150 years from the plague's first appearance, with the final outbreak of the second pandemic there in the 1840s.[110] Plague remained a major event in Ottoman society until the second quarter of the 19th century. Between 1701 and 1750, thirty-seven larger and smaller epidemics were recorded in Constantinople, and an additional thirty-one between 1751 and 1800.[169] Baghdad has suffered severely from visitations of the plague, and sometimes two-thirds of its population had died.[170]

holy roman empire, history, stats: Political map of Italy in early 1494, before the invasion of Italy by Charles VIII of France, created by MapMaster

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Italy_1494_AD.png

history, holy roman empire, journal, stats: islam has its own version of the inquisition of the holy se, or institution involved in the matter of upholding civil religious orders.

Islamic religious police

18 languages

- Article
- Talk

- Read
- Edit
- View history

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Part of a series on

Islamization

show

Islamizations

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Islamic religious police (also sometimes known as **morality police** or **sharia police**) are official Islamic vice squad police agencies, often in Islamic countries, which enforce religious observance and public morality on behalf of national or regional authorities based on its interpretation of sharia.[1][2] Modern Islamic religious police forces were first established in the late-1970s amidst the Iranian Revolution and the Islamic revival the revolution brought; prior, the administration of public morality in most Islamic countries was considered a socioreligious matter, and was enforced through application of civil laws or through more informal means.

Church, holy roman empire, history: **Tomás de Torquemada[a] OP (14 October 1420 – 16 September 1498), also anglicized as Thomas of Torquemada, was a Castilian Dominican friar and first Grand Inquisitor of the Tribunal of the Holy Office (otherwise known as the Spanish Inquisition). , first introduced in 1478: charged with the somewhat ill-defined task of "upholding Catholic religious orthodoxy" within the lands of the newly formed union of the crowns of Castile and Aragon. The lands of this newly formed royal union are now known as the Kingdom of Spain.The number of burnings at the stake during Torquemada's tenure has been estimated at about 2,000.[7]**

first Grand Inquisitor of the Tribunal of the Holy Office (otherwise known as the Spanish Inquisition). The Spanish Inquisition was a group of ecclesiastical prelates that was created in 1478, and which was charged with the somewhat ill-defined task of "upholding Catholic religious orthodoxy" within the lands of the newly formed union of the crowns of Castile and Aragon. The lands of this newly formed royal union are now known as the Kingdom of Spain.

Mainly because of persecution, Muslims and Jews in Castile and Aragon at that time found it socially, politically, and economically expedient to convert to Catholicism (see *Converso*, Morisco, and Marrano).[1] The existence of superficial converts from Judaism (i.e., Crypto-Jews)[2] was perceived by the Catholic Monarchs as a threat to the religious and social life in their realms.[3] This led Torquemada, who himself was believed to have had converso ancestors,[4] to be one of the chief supporters of the Alhambra Decree that expelled the Jews from the Crowns of Castile and Aragon in 1492.

Owing to the perception of widespread use of torture to extract confessions, and advocacy of burning at the stake those deemed guilty, Torquemada's name has become synonymous with cruelty, religious intolerance, and fanaticism.[5] Although torture was included in inquisition manuals from 1252 onward, it is largely absent from trial records, suggesting that while torture was allowed, it was rarely used.[6]

Establishment of the Holy Office of the Inquisition[edit]

Torquemada deeply feared the Marrano and Morisco as a menace to Spain's welfare by both their increasing religious influence and their economic domination of Spain.[14] The Crown of Aragon had Dominican inquisitors almost continuously throughout much of the 14th and the 15th centuries. King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella petitioned Pope Sixtus

IV to grant their request for a Holy Office to administer an inquisition in Spain. The Pope granted their request and established the Holy Office for the Propagation of the Faith in late 1478.

The papal bull gave the sovereigns full powers to name inquisitors. Rome retained the right to formally appoint the royal nominees. Henry Charles Lea observed that the Spanish Inquisition in both Castile and Aragon remained firmly under Ferdinand's direction throughout the joint reign.[15]

Grand Inquisitor[edit]

The Pope went on to appoint a number of inquisitors for the Spanish Kingdoms in early 1482, including Torquemada. A year later he was named Grand Inquisitor of Spain, which he remained until his death in 1498. In 1484, Torquemada relinquished his role as royal confessor to Diego Deza, a Dominican who would eventually succeed him as Grand Inquisitor. The following year, at a general assembly in Seville, Torquemada promulgated the twenty-eight articles of faith that would be used to guide the inquisitors' investigations.[16]

In the fifteen years under his direction, the Spanish Inquisition grew from a single tribunal at Seville to a network of two dozen Holy Offices.[17] As Grand Inquisitor, Torquemada reorganized the Spanish Inquisition (originally based in Castile in 1478), establishing tribunals in Sevilla, Jaén, Córdoba, Ciudad Real and (later) Saragossa. His quest was to rid Spain of all heresy. The Spanish chronicler Sebastián de Olmedo called him "the hammer of heretics, the light of Spain, the savior of his country, the honor of his order."

The Treaty of Granada (1491), as negotiated at the final surrender of the Muslim state of Al-Andalus, clearly mandated protection of religious rights,[18] but this was reversed just over 3 months later by the Alhambra Decree of March 31, 1492. Under the new decree, approximately 40,000 Jews were expelled from Spain with only their personal possessions. Approximately 50,000 other Jews received Christian baptism to remain in Spain. Many of them, derogatorily dubbed "Marranos" by the Old Christian majority, secretly kept some of their Jewish traditions.[19] They were among the chief targets of the Inquisition, but it also pursued anyone who criticized it.

So many clemency petitions were sent to Rome that the Pope became aware of Torquemada's severity, and three times he had called the Inquisition's representatives to Rome. In addition, Isabella and Ferdinand were concerned that so much money was being diverted to the Holy Office that they too protested to the Pope. But Torquemada's power kept him in his position until at least 1494.[16]

There are various estimates of the number of victims of the Spanish Inquisition during Torquemada's reign as Grand Inquisitor. Hernando del Pulgar, Queen Isabella's secretary, wrote that 2,000 executions took place throughout the entirety of her reign, which extended well beyond Torquemada's death.[20]

holy roman empire, history: irish destruction in the 1500's during the catholic counter-reformation

Generally, Irish nationalism is regarded as having emerged following the Renaissance revival of the concept of the *patria* and the religious struggle between the ideology of the Protestant Reformation and the Catholic Counter-Reformation. At this early stage in the 16th century, Irish nationalism represented an ideal of the native Gaelic Irish and the Old English banding together in common cause, under the banner of Catholicism and Irish civic identity ("faith and fatherland/motherland"),[10] hoping to protect their land and interests from the New English Protestant forces sponsored by England. This vision sought to overcome the old ethnic divide between *Gaeil* (the native Irish) and *Gaill* (the Normans) which had been a feature of Irish life since the 12th century, following the Norman invasion of Ireland.

Protestantism in England introduced a religious element to the 16th-century Tudor conquest of Ireland, as many of the native Gaels and Hiberno-Normans remained Catholic. The Plantations of Ireland dispossessed many native Catholic landowners in favour of Protestant settlers from England and Scotland.[11] In addition, the Plantation of Ulster, which began in 1609, "planted" a sizeable population of English and Scottish Protestant settlers into the north of Ireland.

Irish aristocrats waged many campaigns against the English presence. A prime example is the rebellion of Hugh O'Neill which became known as the Nine Years' War of 1594–1603, which aimed to expel the English and make Ireland a Spanish protectorate.[11]

The green harp flag was first used by Irish Confederate troops in the Eleven Years War, and became the main symbol of Irish nationalism from the 17th to the early 20th century.

A more significant movement came in the 1640s, after the Irish Rebellion of 1641, when a coalition of Gaelic Irish and Old English Catholics set up a *de facto* independent Irish state to fight in the Wars of the Three Kingdoms (*see Confederate Ireland*). The Confederate Catholics of Ireland, also known as the Confederation of Kilkenny, emphasised the idea of Ireland as a Kingdom independent from England, albeit under the same monarch. They demanded autonomy for the Irish Parliament, full rights for Catholics and an end to the confiscation of Catholic-owned land. However, the Cromwellian conquest of Ireland (1649–53) destroyed the Confederate cause and resulted in the permanent dispossession of the old Catholic landowning class.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Irish_nationalism

Stats, government, censorship: feb11 they're goin after your tips now folks..

So Much For Billionaires: Joe Biden's IRS Is Now Coming For Waiters And Waitresses' Tips

BY TYLER DURDEN
FRIDAY, FEB 10, 2023 - 07:40 PM

The Biden administration's lip service about new IRS enforcement only being targeted toward the country's wealthiest appears to be just that: ***lip service.***

Instead, while we have been distracted with rhetoric about billionaires paying their fair share, the Biden Administration's IRS is ***actually*** looking to stock its coffers with the tips of waiters and waitresses across the country. This newly planned targeting of middle-class Americans was proposed this week.

Earlier this week the IRS proposed a new procedure to "improve tip reporting compliance", as they so brilliantly put it. Fox News reported:

As part of the program, which wouldn't go into effect until after a multi-month public comment period, the IRS could withdraw liability protection related to "rules that define tips as part of an employee's pay" from employers that don't cooperate.

The program can't go into effect until it makes it through a multi-month comment period, Fox News reported.

Rep. Mike Kelly, R-Pa., the chairman of the Ways and Means Subcommittee on Tax, told Fox this week: ***"Washington has a spending problem, not a revenue problem. Now, the IRS is going after middle-income families and working moms and dads who are just trying to make ends meet and put food on the table."***

"My colleagues and I have warned for months that the IRS would start targeting hardworking Americans in the Biden administration’s quest for more taxpayer dollars. Now, we’re starting to see some of these concerns come to fruition," he continued.

Rep. Adrian Smith, R-Neb., another senior member of the House Ways and Means Committee, agreed.

Smith said: "Bank surveillance efforts, 1099-Ks, 87,000 new IRS agents to target taxpayers, and now a new program to go after service industry workers' tips are all a direct result of the Biden administration's desire to tax working families and small businesses as much as possible."

Smith continued: ***"Make no mistake: the administration's many attempts at raising revenue are because they are unwilling to come to the table to address the debt crisis, which would require curbing their spending addiction."***

"The days of one-party rule are over, and House Republicans will use our majority to ensure hardworking families are not subject to higher taxes and more government mandates, especially not as they struggle under soaring inflation. **Accountability is here – the Biden administration has some explaining to do."**

Rep. Michelle Steel, R-Calif, commented: "When the IRS comes after you, it's not voluntary. Families across the country are struggling with record inflation and fighting to make ends meet. **The last thing waitresses and waiters need is to be targeted by their own government."**

Steel continued: "The House's first order of business this year was to pass my bill to defund President Biden's army of 87,000 IRS agents that were ready to increase audits on middle- and lower-income American families. This new rule doesn't add up with President Biden's claim that he will never come after anyone earning less than $400,000 a year. I strongly oppose this proposed rule and I urge President Biden to reverse course immediately."

Mike Palicz, federal affairs manager at Americans for Tax Reform said the IRS' goal is "to go and grab as much revenue as possible and from whoever they can."

Sanctions, energy, war: First LNG Tanker Arrives At Freeport's Texas Terminal Since 2022 Explosion

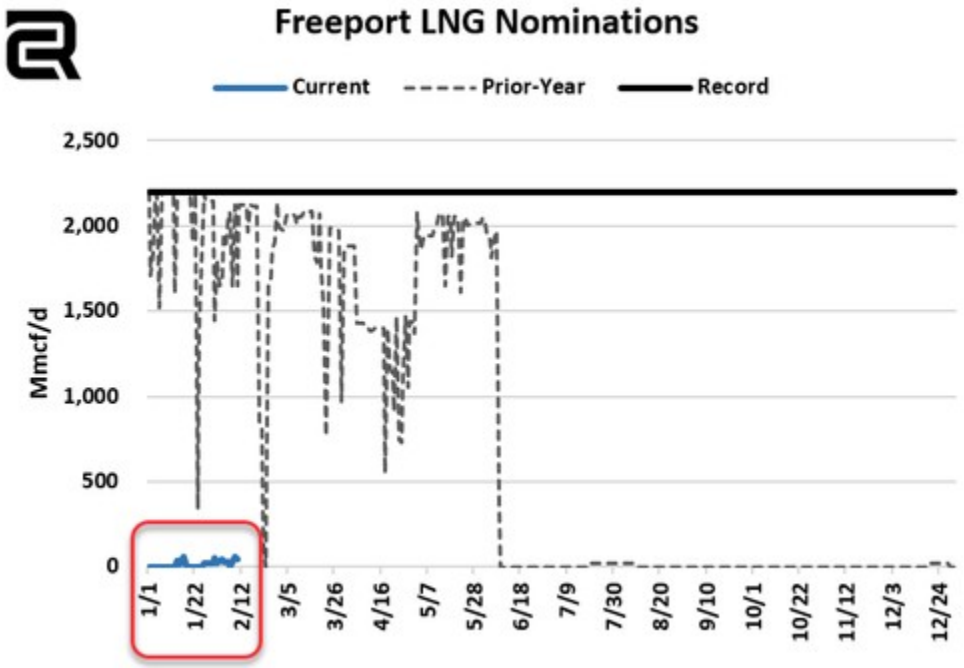
About one day after federal energy regulators approved Freeport LNG's request to return vessels to its loading docks, the second-largest US LNG export plant on the Gulf Coast received its first LNG tanker.

For more on today's developments. Here's what Houston-based energy firm Criterion Research emailed clients:

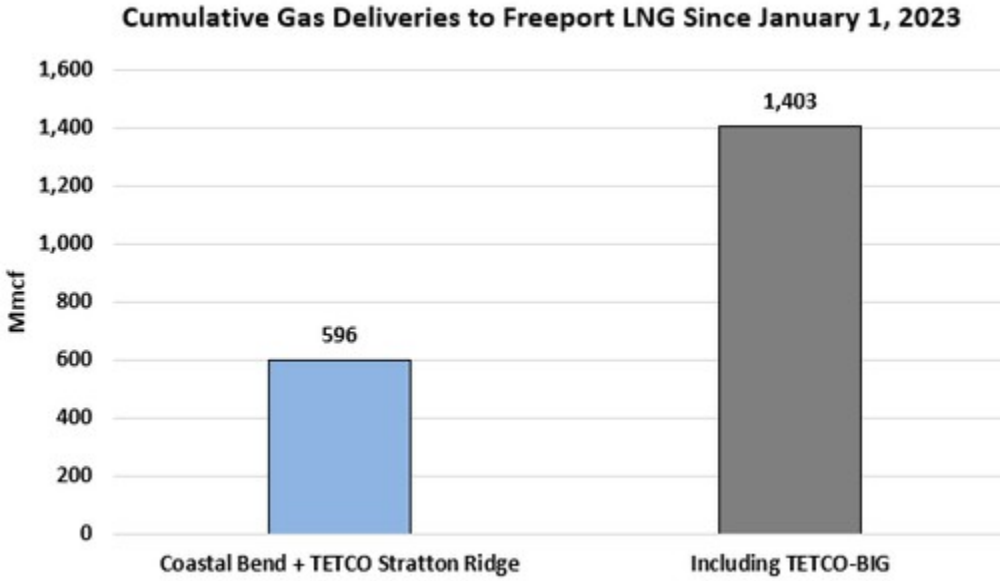
Freeport LNG made a significant step forward this afternoon with the arrival of its first LNG tanker since June 2022. The Kmarin Diamond is now onsite and at Dock 1, just a day after the FERC gave Freeport permission to return Loop 1 back online, and use Dock 1 for ship loading.

The ship may or may not load down a full cargo, and we believe that the tanker will allow Freeport to offload LNG that has been stored in Tanks #1 and #2 since the terminal shut down.

Last week, they were granted approval to "commence commissioning, including cooldown, of the LNG rundown piping system and LNG train 3 (Unit 13)." Freeport is reportedly working through cooldown on Train 3 and rundown work on the line to Tank 2. There is a chance that they start flowing liquefied gas over the weekend as part of that process.



Clearly, they have been flowing at very low rates, with cumulative flows into the terminal since January 1, 2023, totaling 596 Mmcf if you count Coastal Bend and TETCO's Stratton Ridge station, which both feed directly into the terminal. If you also include the indirect TETCO-BIG station, that total increases to 1,403 Bcf.



The terminal still has not requested approval from the FERC to reinstate service of the liquefaction trains, including rundown piping to tanks, so they are not yet bringing in feed gas for liquefaction. They will need to make that request and receive approval before the resumption of commercial service can start.

Some analysts do not expect a partial restart of the LNG export facility until the end of this month.

Traders want to know how US natural gas prices reacted to this news. Well, NatGas futures are up about 5% late in the cash session. Though we should note a combination of a warm winter, soaring production, and adequate supply has led to a 74% plunge in prices since August.

And for a full restart, Freeport still has to ask federal energy regulators for approval.

14 hours ago

remove
link

Oh, joy! Now we can fillerup with United States natural gas and ship it to Europe at exorbitant prices because Biden blew up the Nord Stream pipeline. Ain't subterfuge and intrigue grand?!

play_arrow15play_arrow1

LaugherNYC1
PREMIUM
13 hours ago

Nordstream was being shut down by sanctions anyway, and could be repaired in 3 weeks.

Try again.

play_arrow1play_arrow10

G-ray
13 hours ago

OK buddy

play_arrow2play_arrow

eyewillcomply
10 hours ago

I pity you, G-Ray.

I'll assume you're naive and not privy to actual historical events. If I am correct, please do some homework and realize that the destruction of the Nordstream Pipeline was done by the United States of America. I know it is hard to grasp this if you are like the millions of others who are enthralled by the lying mainstream media which induces you to believe that Russia is evil and NATO is great.
PLEASE... think. Think. Think.
Learn history. Learn motives. Learn who censors. Question. Ascertain.

You will come to an understanding. We will welcome you into the community of thinkers and problem-solvers.

play_arrow4play_arrow1

G-ray
6 hours ago

I completely agree with you. My comment was directed towards LaugherNYC.

play_arrow1play_arrow

GeorgeOrwell1984
11 hours ago

So much for saving the planet when they pollute like that. I am not a green fanatic but common sense is what I strive for and blowing up the pipeline was criminal.

play_arrow3play_arrow

MadBrewer
10 hours ago

BOIL

ProShares Ultra DJ-UBS Natural Gas (2x)

6.69

+0.72 (+12.06%)

Cheers

play_arrow1play_arrow

ZH Influencer
14 hours ago

Biden and his (((frogmen))) will blow it up again if Nat Gas prices get too high domestically.

play_arrow8play_arrow

System Down
14 hours ago

I was thinking Russia might get revenge by going d'anconia copper on the port. But your idea is just as likely. And just as likely to be carried out by our new US Navy terrorists.

play_arrow7play_arrow

truth or go home
13 hours ago

They aren't owned by the United States. Japan built several of them.

play_arrowplay_arrow

inflation millionaire
14 hours ago

This is our resources going out of our country, right?

play_arrow7play_arrow

tyberious
14 hours ago

Gotta feed the Euro Vassals!

play_arrow1play_arrow

SkinnyDoogan
PREMIUM
13 hours ago

No.

They are not our resources. This is not a socialist economy yet.

The gas belongs to the owners of the gas which I would guess is not you.

The owners of these resrources the have a moral duty to sell it to the highest bidder.

play_arrow4play_arrow2

inflation millionaire
13 hours ago

These companies get no assistance from the US tax payer?

Giveme a****ing break.

play_arrow1play_arrow1

cocoa2000
11 hours ago

What taxpayers? They PRINT the money

play_arrowplay_arrow

GeorgeOrwell1984
11 hours ago

What about the tax breaks and political benefits.

play_arrowplay_arrow

Blankone
12 hours ago

Does that apply to computer chips also? Sell to the highest bidder? How about super computers?

play_arrow1play_arrow

GeorgeOrwell1984
11 hours ago

The Oligarchy care about their bank accounts more than they do about their country. There is no "moral duty" involved in those actions.

play_arrowplay_arrow

LaugherNYC1
PREMIUM
13 hours ago

We have enough NatGas for 200 years.

Selling it to Europe is just fine as long as our companies and shareholders make the profits.

play_arrow2play_arrow1

Blankone
12 hours ago

Many are already finding their utilities companies have doubled the per unit of natural gas since just last year. The NG needs to say IN the USA.

play_arrow2play_arrow1

cocoa2000
11 hours ago

Define our? Do you own of AR or eqt?

play_arrowplay_arrow

bshirley1968
PREMIUM
11 hours ago
(Edited)

What we are witnessing is an all out attempt to neutralize Russia's nut hold on the energy destiny of this world.

Russia can destroy the West without firing a shot by starving the West's economy and debt tumor of the energy it needs. Without that energy, Western society will collapse and eat itself from within.

That is the threat to Western hegemony. That is the reason there is an all out press on energy reduction and conservation. They are trying to insulate themselves from Russian energy influence and cut Russia off from its income resources and leverage.

play_arrow4play_arrow

A fool and his money
14 hours ago

Got in UNG last week

It will fly again since we can export and screw us in the name of Ukraine

play_arrow4play_arrow

cocoa2000
11 hours ago

Bot boil thursday 5.93

play_arrowplay_arrow

dog
14 hours ago

Damn I have been waiting for BOIL to turn around and it is starting to look like it’s time to jump in that frying pan.

play_arrow4play_arrow

cocoa2000
11 hours ago

Yep,,freakin white knuckle trading I haven't slept all week.

play_arrow1play_arrow

paid_attention
12 hours ago

Biden's not going to send black ops to blow it up again??

play_arrow3play_arrow

truth or go home
13 hours ago

Those LNG plants are just giant air conditioners that cool the gas down to a liquid temperature, then hold it under pressure. They cost $6-8 billion to build.

I could hardly believe it, but I heard one shipment of LNG is worth something like $3.5 Billion

play_arrow2play_arrow

BingoBoggins
12 hours ago

wtf? those numbers are staggering.

play_arrow2play_arrow

End Times Prophecies
13 hours ago

Yeh well that don't mean sheit. The Market Price for a dozen eggs is just over $2,00 since DECEMBER and it's still $5.00 in the PoS criminal price gouging stores. WTF is taking so long for the corresponding drop on the retail end?

My analysis is accurate. 85% of so called inflation is market manipulated stealing and rest is inflation. One criminal corporation after another with one planned event after another has been used to steal Trillions over the last two years. Simple and easy to trace and hold accountable every since cent and equivalent it the RICO Traitor hierarchy didn't interfere. So it'll have to be destroyed for the good of the Planet and everywhere else.

play_arrow2play_arrow1

cocoa2000
11 hours ago

What country and yr are you living in. Turn the page it ain't 1955. Rico 😂😆😂,,,Iama still waiting for Epstein files😂😆😂

play_arrowplay_arrow

Freespeaker
10 hours ago

How can the CIA help? We do like to blow stuff up.

play_arrow1play_arrow

BingoBoggins
12 hours ago

Drill, Baby, Drill !!

play_arrow1play_arrow

KatLivesKatter
14 hours ago

Uh oh... Bidens about to send in the divers.

play_arrow1play_arrow

Cobra Commander
10 hours ago
(Edited)

Gas pumps in Las Vegas are crazy right now -- relative tells me lines at every pump.

Cobra!

play_arrowplay_arrow

DEMIZEN
11 hours ago
(Edited)

if this goes to 11 again ill be lmao. the volatility of NG is really something, but i doubt it - not without another few kabooms

then, never say never, i wouldnt be suprised if 4.5 - 5 range returns. oil too, could pop here

play_arrowplay_arrow

LaugherNYC1
PREMIUM
13 hours ago

Down 74% since August??

Ouch!! Poutine is gonna write his Senator

play_arrow

Censorship, government: feb11 **GoFundMe Takes Down Campaigns For Arizona Rancher Accused Of Shooting Illegal Alien**

"Any fundraising campaigns for the legal defense of someone charged with murder are removed from our platform..."

War, sanctions, russia: feb11 **Secretive Russian Satellite Breaks Apart In Orbit, Creating Debris Cloud**

A secretive Russian satellite launched nearly a decade ago has experienced a "breakup" in outer space, according to a tweet published by the US Space Force's 18th Space Defense Squadron.

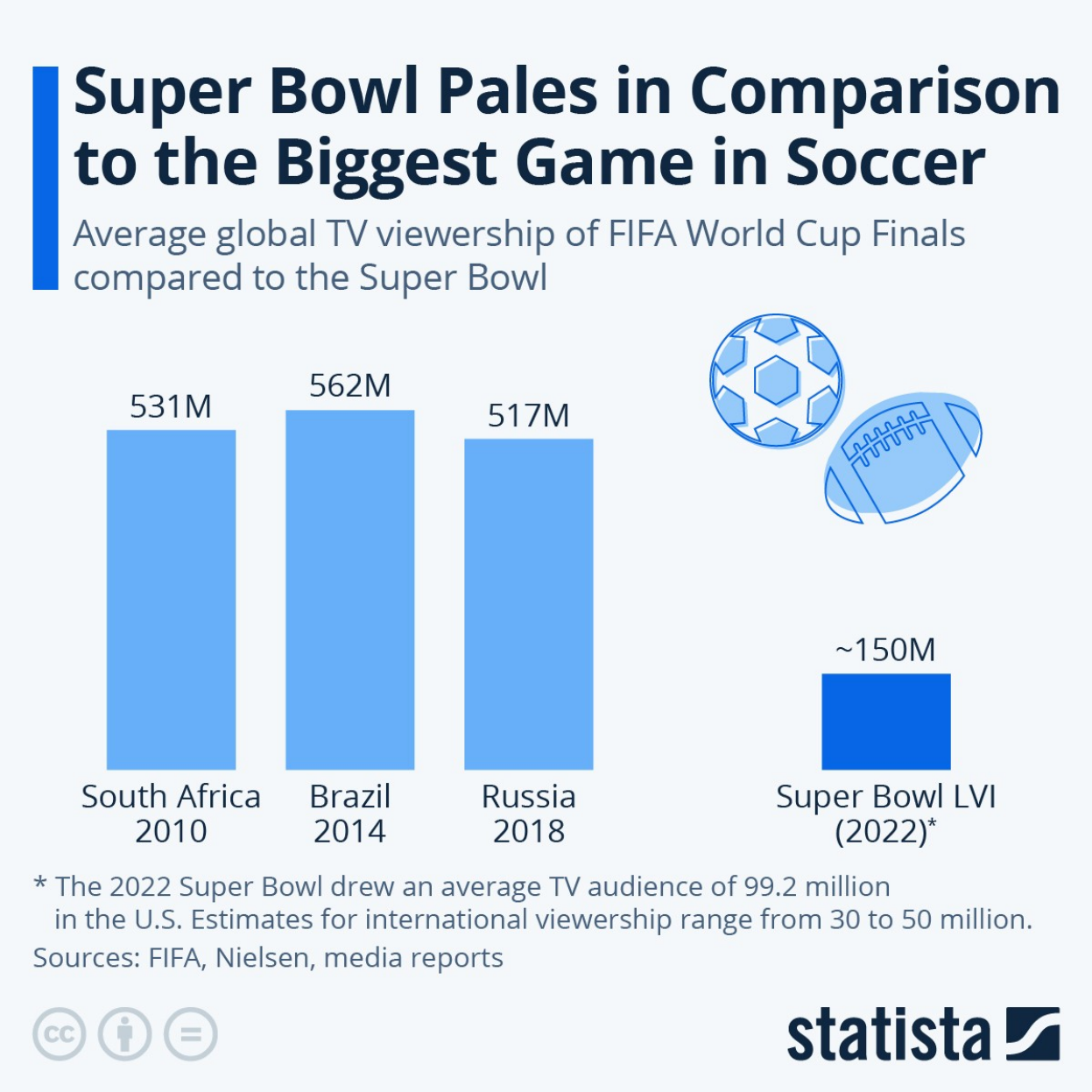
The Space Force said the Kosmos 2499 spacecraft disintegrated on Jan. 4 and unleashed a hazardous cloud of debris orbiting the planet.

Business Insider and Space.com cited RussianSpaceWeb.com's Anatoly Zak, who said Russia launched a rocket in late 2013, supposedly carrying three military communications satellites into orbit. But it wasn't until space trackers found a fourth and very mysterious spacecraft (Kosmos 2499) that was also released into orbit.

Zak said the head of Roscosmos in 2014 assured world leaders that Kosmos 2499 wasn't a "killer satellite." Roscosmos never revealed the satellite's mission.

As for space debris, Brian Weeden, an expert in space junk at the Secure World Foundation, told Ars Technica this is likely not a catastrophic event.

Stats: feb11


Super Bowl Pales in Comparison to the Biggest Game in Soccer
Average global TV viewership of FIFA World Cup Finals compared to the Super Bowl
531M
562M
517M
~150M
South Africa 2010
Brazil 2014
Russia 2018
Super Bowl LVI (2022)*
* The 2022 Super Bowl drew an average TV audience of 99.2 million in the U.S. Estimates for international viewership range from 30 to 50 million.
Sources: FIFA, Nielsen, media reports
statista

superbowl compared to soccer: it pales in comparison...

War, middle east, energy: feb11 **key, gives us forces iraq rough timeline: One year ago this month, the US security relationship with Iraq fully transitioning to a role of advising, assisting, and enabling Iraqi Security Forces**

Military Operations Conducted Pursuant to the 2001 Authorization for Use of Military Force and in Support of Related United States Counterterrorism Objectives

Since October 7, 2001, United States Armed Forces, including Special Operations Forces, have conducted counterterrorism combat operations, including against al-Qa'ida and associated forces. Since August 2014, these operations have included targeting the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS), also known as the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), which was formerly known as al-Qa'ida in Iraq. In support of these and other overseas operations, the United States has deployed combat-equipped forces to several locations in the United States Central, European, Africa, Southern, and Indo-Pacific Commands' areas of responsibility. Such operations and deployments have been reported previously, consistent with Public Law 107-40, Public Law 107-243, the War Powers Resolution, and other statutes. These ongoing operations, which the United States has carried out with the assistance of numerous international partners, have been successful in seriously degrading ISIS capabilities in Syria and Iraq. If necessary, in response to terrorist threats, I will direct additional measures to protect the people and interests of the United States. It is not possible to know at this time the precise scope or the duration of the deployments of United States Armed Forces that are or will be necessary to counter terrorist threats to the United States.

Afghanistan. On April 14, 2021, I directed the withdrawal of United States forces from Afghanistan. That withdrawal was completed by August 31,

2021. The United States has relocated counterterrorism capabilities outside Afghanistan and remains postured to address threats to the United States homeland and United States interests that may arise from inside Afghanistan.

Iraq and Syria. As part of a comprehensive strategy to defeat ISIS, United States Armed Forces are working by, with, and through local partners in conducting airstrikes and other necessary operations against ISIS forces in Iraq and Syria and against al-Qa'ida in Syria. A small presence of United States Armed Forces remains in strategically significant locations in Syria to conduct operations, in partnership with indigenous ground forces, to address continuing terrorist threats emanating from Syria. United States Armed Forces in Iraq continue to advise, assist, and enable select elements of the Iraqi security forces, including Iraqi Kurdish security forces. United States Armed Forces also provide limited support to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) mission in Iraq. Actions in Iraq are being undertaken in coordination with the Government of Iraq and the Kurdistan Regional Government, and in conjunction with Coalition partners. As noted in the July 26, 2021, Joint Statement on the United States-Iraq Strategic Dialogue, the United States security relationship with Iraq will fully transition to a training, advising, assisting, and intelligence-sharing role, and there will be no United States forces with a combat role in Iraq after December 31, 2021.

As reported in June 2021, I directed targeted strikes against facilities at two locations in Syria and one location in Iraq near the Iraq-Syria border. These facilities were used by Iran-backed militia groups that were involved in a series of attacks against United States personnel and facilities in Iraq. These attacks had escalated in the months leading up to the strikes and injured and threatened the lives of United States and Coalition personnel. I

directed this action consistent with my responsibility to protect United States citizens both at home and abroad and in furtherance of United States national security interests, pursuant to my constitutional authority to conduct United States foreign relations and as Commander in Chief and Chief Executive.

hitehousedotgov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/12/07/letter-to-the-speaker-of-the-house-and-president-pro-tempore-of-the-senate-regarding-the-war-powers-report-2/

News|Joe Biden

US-led combat mission in Iraq ends, shifting to advisory role

The United States will continue to provide assistance, advice and training to Iraqi forces, Iraqi and US officials say.

9 Dec 2021
|
Updated:
9 Dec 2021
05:04 PM (GMT)

United States-led forces have ended their combat mission in Iraq, senior US and Iraqi officials said, as the coalition transitions to an advisory role assisting Iraqi forces.

Qassim al-Araji, Iraq's national security adviser, said on Thursday that a final round of technical talks to formally end the US-led combat mission, which was tasked with rooting out ISIL (ISIS) in the country, had concluded.

KEEP READING

list of 3 itemslist 1 of 3
Probe in drone attack on Iraq PM yet to identify attackers
list 2 of 3

Several civilians and Peshmerga killed by ISIL in Iraq's Makhmour
list 3 of 3
US carries out air raids on Iran-backed militias in Syria, Iraq
end of list

"We are officially announcing the end of the coalition forces' combat mission," al-Araji wrote on Twitter, adding that the coalition would continue providing assistance, advice and training to Iraqi forces.

Iraqi Kurdish Peshmerga Brigadier General Hazhar Ismail, who attended the meeting in Baghdad, also told reporters the US-led coalition said it was ready to end the mission sooner than the previous deadline. "They said we are ready starting from today," he said.

"Many brave men and women gave their lives to ensure Daesh never returns, and as we complete our combat role, we will remain here to advise, assist and enable [Iraqi security forces], at the invitation of Republic of Iraq," said coalition commander Major General John Brennan, referring to ISIL (ISIS) by its Arabic acronym.

But the war against the group is not over, Brennan added. "Daesh is down, but not out."

The formal end of the combat mission is unlikely to change the facts on the ground; the coalition stopped engaging in combat missions early in 2020, and since then, the main US focus has been assisting Iraqi forces.

Iraqi Staff Lieutenant General Abdul Amir al-Shammari, deputy commander of the Joint Operations Command for Iraq, said Iraqi forces were ready to take up the fight against ISIL. "Our soldiers have demonstrated their ability to maintain the defeat of Daesh, and we look toward the future with hope, providing stability, security, and prosperity for the men and women of Iraq," he said.

History of intervention

The US invaded Iraq in 2003 amid its global “war on terror”, reaching a peak of about 170,000 soldiers in the country in 2007 before withdrawing forces in 2011.

US forces were redeployed to Iraq in 2014 in response to the rise of ISIL, as the armed group overran a large swath of territory across Iraq and Syria.

However, US troops have largely been acting as advisers and trainers since mid-2020, when they stopped directly engaging in combat operations. Another 900 US troops remain in Syria, although their withdrawal is not expected any time soon.

ISIL lost its last piece of territory in Iraq in 2017 and in Syria in 2019, although there has been an uptick in attacks, including in Iraq’s northern semi-autonomous Kurdish region, in recent months.

History, church: feb11 **so 41% of irelands population was killed during the english civil war, or war of three kindoms in the mid 1600's. Had to verify that figure, but its as true as anything elese I could read that I would consider credible online.**

For example, **Norway, Sweden, North Korea, Israel, and Eritrea** conscript both men and women. However, only Norway and Sweden have a gender-neutral conscription system, where men and women are conscripted and serve on equal formal terms.

mwhahahahahahhaha..

turn on the intro beat. Here comes reality. This is like your santa clause isnt real moment, but for adults! You'll grow as a person from it--trust me.

Compulsory military service for both genders[edit]

- Cape Verde[14] (2 years selective)
- Chad[14] (3 years for men. 1 year for women. Civilian service for the age of 21)
- Eritrea[14] (Indefinite period, usually up to 10 years for women and 15 for men)
- Israel[14] (32 months for men[15] and 2 years for women)
- Morocco[16] (1 year)
- Norway[14] (19 months, selective)
- North Korea[14] (10 years for men, upon high school completion to 23 years of age for women)
- Sweden[4][14] (11 months, selective)

Military service limited to 1 year or less[edit]

This list is incomplete; you can help by adding missing

items. *(April 2012)*

The following twenty countries have been identified as having compulsory military service limited to 1 year or less:

- Algeria (1 year)
- Bolivia (1 year)
- Brazil (9–12 months, can be extended to a max of 7 years; the conscript may be discharged by excess of contingent)
- Colombia (1–2 years depending on MOS and branch)
- Estonia (8–11 months)
- France (1 month, age 16–18)
- Greece (1 year)
- Guatemala (1–2 years)
- Kazakhstan (1 year)
- Kyrgyzstan (1 year)
- Lithuania (9 months[117])
- Moldova (1 year)
- Mongolia (1 year)
- Morocco (1 year)
- Paraguay (1 year for Army, 2 years for Navy)
- Qatar (4–12 months)
- Russia (1 year)
- Sweden (9–11 months)
- Taiwan (4 months)
- Tunisia (1 year)
- Turkey (6–12 months)
- Uzbekistan (1 year)

Military service limited to 18 months[edit]

This list is incomplete; you can help by adding missing items. *(August 2018)*

The following 11 countries have been identified to having compulsory military service limited to 18 months or less:

- Azerbaijan (between 1 and 2 years)
- Belarus (6–12 months for undergraduate school alumni)
- Benin
- Cambodia
- Cyprus (18 months civilian, 14 armed)

- Egypt (14 months service minimum obligation)
- Georgia
- Kuwait
- Laos
- UAE (16 months for high school diploma holders)
- Ukraine (12 months for holding master's degree, 18 months for others)[18]

Military service longer than 18 months[edit]

This list is incomplete; you can help by adding missing items. *(April 2012)*

The following 27 countries have been identified as having compulsory military service terms longer than 18 months:

- Armenia (2 years)
- Angola (2 years plus a training period, civilian or non-combatant option available)
- Chad (3 years men, 1 year women. Civil service available only for women)
- Cuba (2 years)
- Eritrea (18 months officially, in practice indefinite; see National Service in Eritrea)
- Equatorial Guinea (2 years, selective)
- Guinea-Bissau (2 years, selective)
- Iran (2 years)
- Israel (3 years for men, 2 years for women)[19]
- North Korea (11 years for men, 7 years for women)[20][21][22][23]
- Libya (2 years)
- Mali (2 years, selective)
- Mozambique (2 years, selective)
- Niger (2 years, selective)
- São Tomé and Príncipe (2 years)
- Senegal (2 years, selective)
- Singapore (22 months to 2 years, without regard to Full-Time National Service in the Singapore Civil Defence Force or Singapore Police Force, under the Ministry of Home Affairs)[24]
- South Korea (18 months for Army and Marines, 20 months for Navy, 21 months for Air Force and Social Service, 3 years for special Social Service)
- Sudan (1–2 years, both sexes)

- Syria (2 years Army & Air force, 18 months in the Navy)
- Tajikistan (2 years)
- Thailand (2 years for involuntarily drafted men,1 years for volunteers, 6 months for diploma[clarification needed])
- Turkmenistan (2 years)
- UAE (3 years, for high school dropouts)
- Vietnam (2 years, selective)
- Venezuela (2 years)

No defense force[edit]

Main article: List of countries without armed forces

The following nineteen countries have been identified as having no defense forces or as having no standing army but having very limited military forces:

- Andorra
- Costa Rica
- Dominica
- Federated States of Micronesia
- Grenada
- Iceland*
- Kiribati
- Liechtenstein
- Marshall Islands
- Mauritius*
- Monaco*
- Nauru
- Palau
- Panama*
- Samoa
- Solomon Islands
- Tuvalu
- Vanuatu*
- Vatican City*

* Countries having no standing army, but having very limited military forces.

Counting in accidents and the two Bishops' wars, an estimate of 190,000 dead is achieved,[150] out of a total population of about five million.[151] It is estimated that from 1638 to 1651, 15%–20% of all adult males in England and Wales served in the military. Around 4% of the total population died from war-related causes, compared to 2.23% in the First World War.

Unknown; 15,000–20,000 battlefield casualties ~50,000 deported as indentured labourers[1][2]	8,000 New Model Army soldiers killed, ~7,000 locally raised soldiers killed
200,000–600,000 civilian casualties (from war-related violence, famine or disease)[3]	

Total excess deaths for the entire period of the Wars of the Three Kingdoms in Ireland was estimated by Sir William Petty, the 17th century economist, to be 600,000 out of a

total Irish population of 1,400,000 in 1641.[41][42][43] One modern estimate estimated that at least 200,000 were killed out of a population of allegedly 2 million.[44]

In addition, the whole post-war Cromwellian settlement of Ireland has been characterised by historians such as Mark Levene and Alan Axelrod as ethnic cleansing, in that it sought to remove Irish Catholics from the eastern part of the country, others such as the historical writer Tim Pat Coogan have described the actions of Cromwell and his subordinates as genocide.[45] The aftermath of the Cromwellian campaign and settlement saw extensive dispossession of landowners who were Catholic, and a huge drop in population. In the event, the much larger number of surviving poorer Catholics were not moved westwards; most of them had to fend for themselves by working for the new landowners.

Long-term results[edit]

The Cromwellian conquest completed the British colonisation of Ireland, which was merged into the Commonwealth of England, Scotland and Ireland in 1653–59. It destroyed the native Irish Catholic land-owning classes and replaced them with colonists with a British identity. The bitterness caused by the Cromwellian settlement was a powerful source of Irish nationalism from the 17th century onwards.

After the Stuart Restoration in 1660, Charles II of England restored about a third of the confiscated land to the former landlords in the Act of Settlement 1662, but not all, as he needed political support from former parliamentarians in England. A generation later, during the Glorious Revolution, many of the Irish Catholic landed class tried to reverse the remaining Cromwellian settlement in the Williamite War in Ireland (1689–91), where they fought en masse for the Jacobites. They were defeated once again, and many lost land that had been regranted after 1662. As a result, Irish and English Catholics did not become full political citizens of the British state again until 1829 and were legally barred from buying valuable interests in land until the Papists Act 1778.

The Cromwellian government also contributed to the decline and eventual extinction of wolves in Ireland, through such methods as deforestation and anti-wolf legislation, the latter including bounties paid out for killing wolves.[46][47]

This below page confirmed these outrageous figures for me. From historyireland.com, and very short. So they seem to be the accepted figures by historians..

n his reassessment of the reputation of Oliver Cromwell, Micheál Ó Siochrú outlines the known historical facts relating to his campaign in Ireland (August 1649–May 1650), detailing his programme of ethnic cleansing, the massacre of military and civilian personnel at Drogheda and Wexford, the forced removal to Connacht and the transportation of slave labour to Barbados. I was disappointed, however, that no statistics were provided to give some indication of the number of victims involved. Cromwell's campaign in Ireland was of short duration compared to the total period of the English civil wars, 1642–1651 (or 1642–1658 if you include the period to Cromwell's death), but I think it reasonable to consider that the greater number of deaths occurred during his campaign. The conflict between Charles I and his supporters on the one hand and the parliamentarians on the other was initially confined to England, but quickly spread to engulf Scotland, Wales and Ireland. It is more often referred to today as the 'wars of the three kingdoms'. A comparison of the total number of deaths from warfare and disease in respect of the countries involved in the period 1642–1658 helps to put Ireland's agony in perspective. Figures available at the very excellent permanent English Civil War exhibition at Warwick Castle, England, provide the following statistics for casualties:

	Fighting	Disease	Total	%	pop.
England/Wales		83,830	100,000	183,830	3.7
Scotland	27,875	60,000	87,875	6.0	

The figures are even more horrific for Ireland, however: a total of 618,000 deaths from fighting and disease out of a total pre-war population of c. 1.5 million, or 41 per cent of the population. No figures are given for transportation to Barbados. Further confirmation of the above figures can be obtained from The Civil War 1642–1651 by Michael St John Parker (ISBN 0853726477).

A 41 per cent loss of population must surely represent one of the greatest tragedies of any people for any period of European history, not excluding the worst excesses of the twentieth century. We can take as an example the death rate from enemy action and war-related disease for Britain during the Second World War, which represents 0.6 per cent of the population.

So, why were the casualties in Ireland so high? Cromwell and his supporters considered Irish Roman Catholics as little better than savages, barbarian in their lifestyle and habits and capable of appalling atrocities against Protestant settlers. They were sub-human and dangerous, and were to be treated accordingly. Whilst acknowledging Cromwell's excesses in Ireland, Micheál Ó Siochrú seems to imply that 'local folklore' might be wrong to accuse him of war crimes, religious persecution and ethnic cleansing. A loss of more than 40 per cent of the population might, however, suggest a conscious plan of elimination based on racial and religious hatred, which in other circumstances and times would rightly be called genocide. Cromwell's murderous campaign in Ireland was fuelled by a pathological hatred of Irish Catholics, which he himself clearly expressed.

One wonders how many of the c. 600,000 victims died during Cromwell's campaign. Perhaps this subject could be more fully explored in a further article in History Ireland?

Journal: feb11 the system puts us to war and work..

look to the past and youll know your present; look to the present, and youll know your future..

While neighboring Lithuania decided to reinstate conscription in 2015, and Estonia never abolished it, Latvia chose no change. Classes on national defense were introduced in schools, along with summer camps for practical skills.

War, Germany: feb11 German Politicians and Military Chiefs Suggest Return of Conscription

Political and military figures in Germany have suggested a return of compulsory military service after the new defence minister described the 2011 phase-out of general conscription as a "mistake" that had contributed to alienating the general public from civic institutions.

The German parliamentary commissioner for the armed forces, Eva Högl of the centre-left SPD, on Wednesday urged the government to ask itself whether some form of obligatory civic service was required to address staff shortages in the German army's ranks.

"We definitely need more personnel in the Bundeswehr," Högl told the Augsburger Allgemeine newspaper.

With the staffing requirements of a downsized army shrinking after the fall of the Berlin Wall, both services were suspended under Angela Merkel's rule in 2011, though a clause allowing the state to draft men into the armed forces remains part of the German Basic Law.

Recently army officials have complained of their struggles to fill the ranks of a Bundeswehr no more than 183,000 strong, while social institutions bemoan the lack of young care workers for whom a *Zivildienst* spell used to work as a door-opener into the sector.
When Pistorius described the phase-out as a mistake, he was explicitly referring not to the threat faced by an aggressive Russian state, but the social acceptance of armed forces in German society. "Back in the day there was a conscript at every second kitchen table", he said. "Which meant there was always a connection to civic society at large."

War: feb10 **Ukraine Almost Solely Reliant On Intelligence From US For HIMARS Rocket Strikes**

Russia, war: feb10 Moldova's Govt Collapses After Russian Missile Salvo From Black Sea Breaches Its Airspace

"Several Russian missiles passed through the airspace of Moldova and Romania. **These missiles are a challenge to NATO and collective security. This is terror that can and must be stopped**," he added.
Zelensky has long tried to push NATO more directly into the conflict to drive the Russians out of Ukraine.

News of the missile flyover was accompanied by further instability in Moldova, as CNBC reports, the Moldovan government has effectively collapsed amid the ongoing pressure due to the war just across the border. "Moldova's Prime Minister Natalia Gavrilita said Friday that **her government was resigning following a volatile 18 months in power and an ongoing war at its border**."

"Gavrilita did not say whether the decision was in direct response to the war between neighboring Ukraine and Russia," CNBC continues. Western allies have long charged Russia with seeking to destabilize Moldova, and there have long been fears that Russian forces could cross into the country.

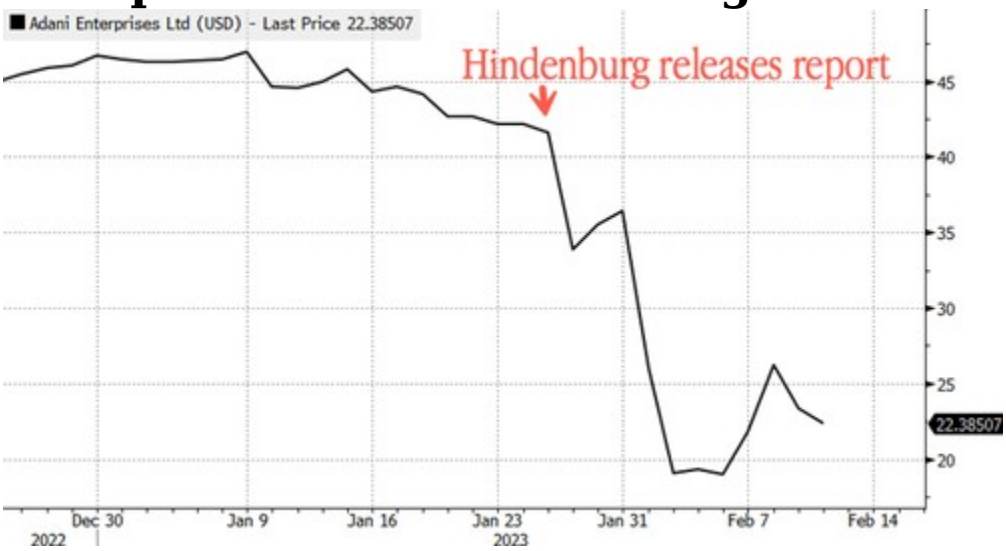
The follows on the heels of in the past months Western countries donating hundreds of millions of dollars to shore up tiny Moldova's resources amid renewed fears of future Russian aggression and energy supply cuts against it.

A new prime minister has been named, the pro-EU Dorin Recean, described as someone who will **keep Moldova on a pro-European Union trajectory**. Recean is currently the national security adviser, and will replace Natalia Gavrilița as the new head of government," *Politico* reports.

"The Moldovan parliament, where Sandu's party holds a comfortable majority with 63 out of 101 seats, will vote to confirm the nomination next week," details *Politico*.

War, india, sanctions: feb10 **Adani Hires Top US Law Firm To Combat Short-Seller Hindenburg; $100 billion has been wiped out from the Indian**

conglomerate following US short-seller Hindenburg Research's scathing report last month that accused it of "brazen stock manipulation and accounting fraud."



China, government, readlater: feb10 **Great china rticle, includes chart of capital flight..**

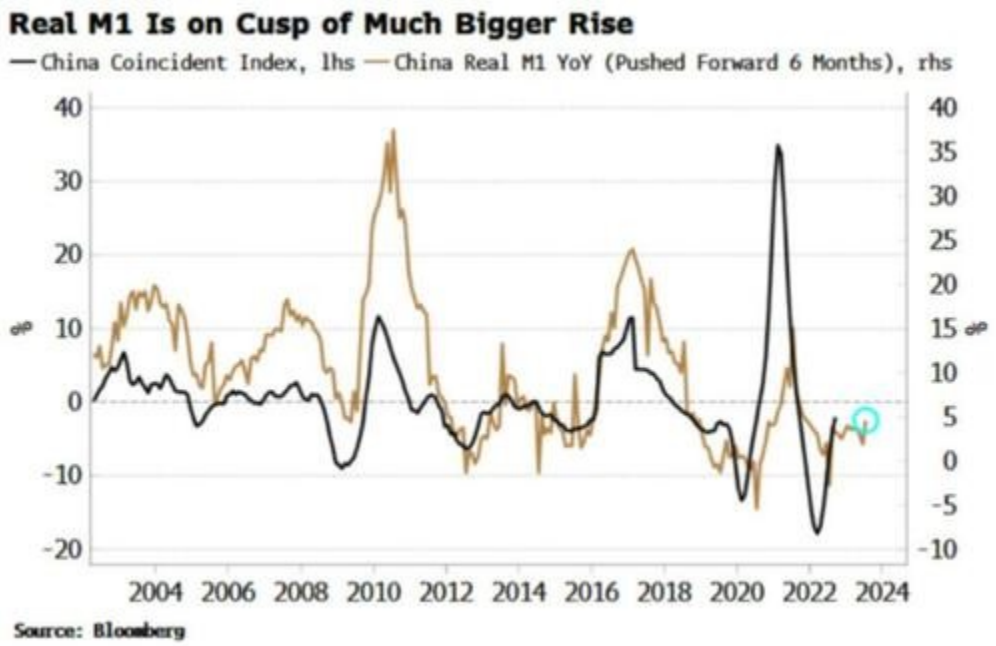
There is unavoidable uncertainty here, but there is less doubt in China, where the data shows the country is now unequivocally turning a corner from Covid after several false starts.

China abruptly dropped Zero-Covid restrictions in December, and previous to this announced a raft of measures aimed at stabilizing its depressed property market.

Also, China directed lenders to front-load credit extension to businesses and consumers to expedite the economy’s recovery from the economic scarring from Covid lockdowns. Some banks are even throwing in Dyson hairdryers to encourage consumer borrowing.

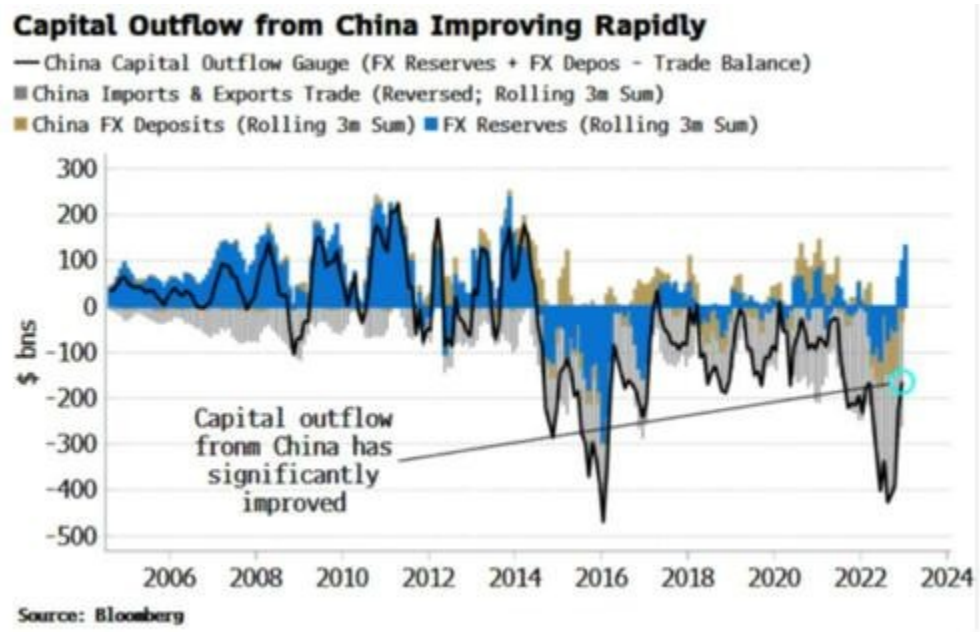
But due to the credit system in China, liquidity does not always flow to where it is most needed. The banking system reflexively tends to favor the SOE sector, often leaving the weaker parts of the economy like the household and non-state corporate sector starved of much-needed fiscal assistance.

But when broad money growth begins to rise in real terms, this is normally a good sign credit is beginning to flow more freely to all corners of the economy. This is what we are now seeing, with year-on-year M1 growth rising to 6.7% from 3.7% last month, and real M1 now at 4.6%, its highest since late 2021.

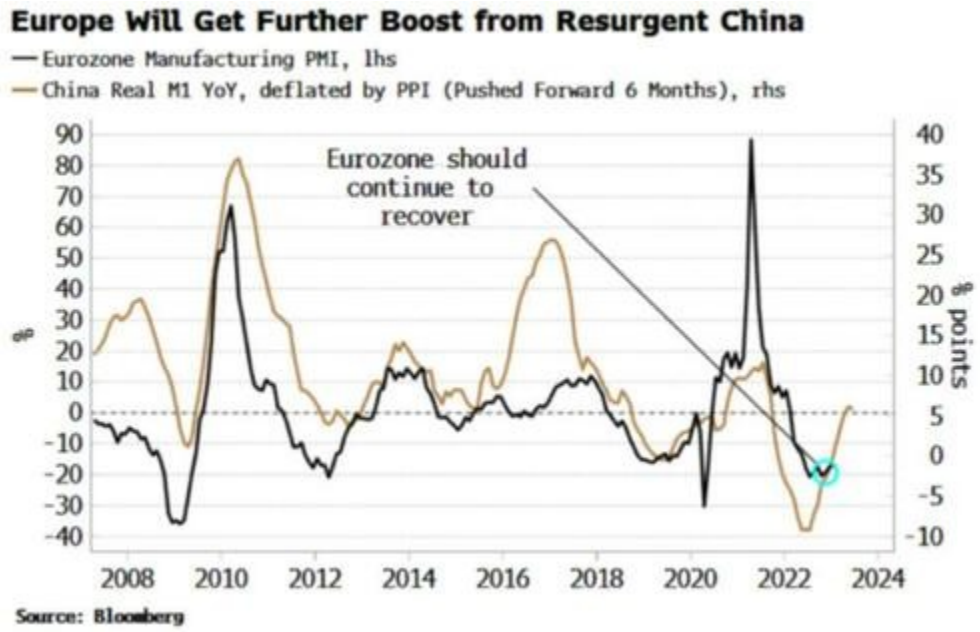

Real M1 Is on Cusp of Much Bigger Rise
China Coincident Index, lhs
China Real M1 YoY (Pushed Forward 6 Months), rhs
Source: Bloomberg

January can often see a seasonal bump in money growth, but the rise in M1 was larger than expected, and comes at a time when we know there is a powerful combination of easing – fiscal, monetary and social – waiting in the wings with huge growth potential.

Moreover, **capital outflow has decreased markedly from China,** which will also significantly improve domestic liquidity conditions.


Capital Outflow from China Improving Rapidly
China Capital Outflow Gauge (FX Reserves + FX Depos - Trade Balance)
China Imports & Exports Trade (Reversed; Rolling 3m Sum)
China FX Deposits (Rolling 3m Sum)
FX Reserves (Rolling 3m Sum)
$ bns
Capital outflow fronm China has significantly improved
Source: Bloomberg

It has been easy to jump the gun with China, but it looks like it’s back as a global economic driver.


Europe Will Get Further Boost from Resurgent China
Eurozone Manufacturing PMI, lhs
China Real M1 YoY, deflated by PPI (Pushed Forward 6 Months), rhs
Eurozone should continue to recover
% points
Source: Bloomberg

This has implications for global demand and supply, but one of the most direct G7 beneficiaries is likely to be Europe.

Government, tech: feb10 **Total Information Awareness, CBDC's....you wqon't be able to escape. At first it will work, then they'll start throwin us around like a bag of potatoes**

#3) Total Information Awareness

Once it's digitized in a centralized database (central banks) as opposed to being cryptographically secured on a decentralized blockchain (Bitcoin) – everything becomes known to central authorities instantly. Taxation can be applied per-transaction, but more interestingly – prices can also be modified on the fly.

If you're behind on your property or income taxes – or have an unpaid fine (maybe because you're fighting it), for example, they could simply enable a rolling garnishee on your wallet until it's paid off.

While all transaction signatures are public on Bitcoin – they are pseudonymous and more importantly, unalterable. It's true it may be known or discoverable that A sent sats to B, but there's nothing any third-party can do about it. With Lightning on the ascent, combined with various privacy enhancements there – Bitcoin development is moving in the direction of *more* freedom and *more* privacy – which is the opposite direction of most CBDC initiatives.

Finally, whether CBDCs are launched with the noblest of intentions, there will at some point arise "an emergency" which will make it necessary for The People in Charge to "flip the switch" and turn them into:

#4) Social Credit Systems

Imagine if “**LoonCoin**” was a thing last year when the #FreedomConvoy hit Ottawa (and signalled the beginning of a worldwide revolt against Covid tyranny). Instead of emailing a list of bank accounts to be frozen that were cribbed from a (hacked) spreadsheet, they could simply direct the Bank of Canada to turn off everybody’s digital wallets who were in the vicinity of the protest, or who contributed to their crowdfund, or who retweeted the #HonkHonk hashtag.

Do you think they wouldn’t have done it?

Covid vaxports have already been weaponized in China, Brazil is doing it with their UBI program and when this is all formaized into a CBDC, they will probably not launch it without the framework for widespread social credit and control systems being part of the plumbing.

We all know from our experience with the pandemic, emergencies tend to drag on in perpetuity. The “War on Terror” is still in effect, and there are still legions of collectivist automatons tweeting #CovidIsntOver.

So when “The Long Emergency” (to use James Kunstler’s term) becomes a never ending, rolling *climate crisis,* the social credit systems built into CBDCs *will be used to enforce*:

#5) Carbon footprint tracking

Back in Carbon Rationing, CBDCs and Sound Money I wrote how this trajectory is more or less baked-in now, and that the state-run financial system is undergoing a shift from a debt-backed monetary system to one based on carbon quotas.

History, Germany, government, readlater: feb1

german imperial empire was first to introduce organized age old security

Germany became the first nation in the world to adopt an old-age social insurance program in 1889, designed by Germany's Chancellor, Otto von Bismarck. The idea was first put forward, at Bismarck's behest, in 1881 by Germany's Emperor, William the First, in a ground-breaking letter to the German Parliament.

The first welfare state was Imperial Germany (1871–1918), where the Bismarck government introduced social security in 1889.[13] In the early 20th century, the United Kingdom introduced social security around 1913, and adopted the welfare state with the National Insurance Act 1946, during the Attlee government (1945–51).[11] In the countries of western Europe, Australia, and New Zealand, social welfare is mainly provided by the government out of the national tax revenues, and to a lesser extent by non-government organizations (NGOs), and charities (social and religious).[11] A right

to social security and an adequate standard of living is asserted in Articles 22 and 25 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.[6][b]

In the United States, depending on the context, the term "welfare" can be used to refer to means-tested cash benefits, especially the Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) program and its successor, the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families block grants, or it can be used to refer to all means-tested programs that help individuals or families meet basic needs, including, for example, health care through Medicaid, Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits and food and nutrition programs (SNAP). It can also include social insurance programs such as unemployment insurance, Social Security, and Medicare.

Germany became the first nation in the world to adopt an old-age social insurance program in 1889, designed by Germany's Chancellor, Otto von Bismarck. The idea was first put forward, at Bismarck's behest, in 1881 by Germany's Emperor, William the First, in a ground-breaking letter to the German Parliament. William wrote: *". . .those who are disabled from work by age and invalidity have a well-grounded claim to care from the state."*

Bismarck was motivated to introduce social insurance in Germany both in order to promote the well-being of workers in order to keep the German economy operating at maximum efficiency, and to stave-off calls for more radical socialist alternatives. Despite his impeccable right-wing credentials, Bismarck would be called a socialist for introducing these programs, as would President Roosevelt 70 years later. In his own speech to the Reichstag during the 1881 debates, Bismarck would reply: *"Call it socialism or whatever you like. It is the same to me."*

The German system provided contributory retirement benefits and disability benefits as well. Participation was mandatory and contributions were taken from the employee, the employer and the government. Coupled with the workers' compensation program established in 1884 and the "sickness" insurance enacted the year before, this gave the Germans a comprehensive system of income security based on social insurance principles. (They would add unemployment insurance in 1927, making their system complete.)

One persistent myth about the German program is that it adopted age 65 as the standard retirement age because that was Bismarck's age. This myth is important because Germany was one of the models America looked to in designing its own Social Security plan; and the myth is that America adopted age 65 as the age for retirement benefits because this was the age adopted by Germany when they created their program. In fact, Germany initially set age 70 as the retirement age (and Bismarck himself was 74 at the time) and it was not until 27 years later (in 1916) that the age was lowered to 65. By that time, Bismarck had been dead for 18 years.

President Roosevelt's New Deal

By Catherine A. Paul

"I pledge you, I pledge myself, to a new deal for the American people." – Franklin D. Roosevelt

William Gropper's "Construction of a Dam" (1939)
Photo: United State Department of the Interior

Franklin Delano Roosevelt

Photo: FDR Library

The New Deal was enacted from 1933 to 1939 by President Franklin D. Roosevelt to provide immediate economic relief from the Great Depression and to address necessary reforms in industry, agriculture, finance, water power, labor, and housing. The New Deal was grounded in the belief that the power of the federal government was needed to lift America from the Great Depression (Library of Congress, n.d.). These programs signaled both an expansion of federal power and a transformation in the relationship between the federal government and the American people (Hopkins, 2011).

Public Works Administration Project: Bonneville Power and Navigation Dam, Oregon
Photo: National Archives and Records Administration
ID: 195806

Many of the New Deal policies were enacted in the first three months of President Roosevelt's time in office, which became known as the "Hundred Days." Roosevelt's first objective was to address widespread unemployment by establishing agencies such as the Works Progress Administration (WPA) and the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC). Such agencies dispensed emergency and short-term government aid and provided temporary jobs, such as work on construction projects and national forests (New Deal, n.d.).

Before 1935, the New Deal's primary focus was on revitalizing business and agricultural communities. The National Recovery Administration (NRA) shaped industrial regulations governing trade practices, wages, hours, child labor, and collective bargaining. Moreover, the New Deal sought to regulate the country's financial hierarchy to prevent another incident like the stock market crash of 1929 and the bank failures that followed. The Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) granted federal insurance for bank deposits in Federal Reserve System member banks, and the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) protected

individuals from fraudulent stock market practices. The Agricultural Adjustment Administration (AAA) controlled the production of staple crops through cash subsidies to farmers in order to raise prices, and the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) covered seven states to supply cheap electricity, prevent floods, improve navigation, and produce nitrates (New Deal, n.d.).

1935 New Deal parody cartoon by Vaughn Shoemaker
Photo: Public Domain

In 1935, the New Deal shifted its attention to labor and urban groups. The Wagner Act increased the authority of the federal government in industrial relations and gave further organizing power to labor unions under the execution of the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB). In addition, one of the most notable New Deal programs, the Social Security Board (SSB), was enacted in 1935 and 1939, providing benefits to the elderly and to widows, unemployment compensation, and disability insurance. Moreover,

maximum working hours and a minimum wage were set in some industries in 1938 (New Deal, n.d.).

Journal, vaccine, government: feb10 welfare “The children have to be vaccinated. Suppose they don’t have a vaccination certificate. In that case, the mother will lose the benefit”, said Lula during the inauguration of the ophthalmology and diagnostic units of the Super Carioca Health Center in Benfica, Rio de Janeiro.

Lula says that parents will be forced to vaccinate their children to keep government aid flowing

By Latin America News

February 7, 2023

President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva (PT, progressive-globalist) said that the Bolsa Familia program would again require parents to prove the vaccination of their children to continue receiving the benefit.

Bolsa Familia is a social welfare program for the poorest families in Brazil.

It’s a kind of universal basic income guaranteed to tens of millions, but only, it now turns out, if they dance to Lula’s tune.

“The Bolsa Família is coming back, and it is coming back with something important; it is coming back with conditions. The children have to be in school. If they are not in school, the mother loses the benefit.”

“The children have to be vaccinated. Suppose they don’t have a vaccination certificate. In that case, the mother will lose the benefit”, said Lula during the inauguration of the ophthalmology and diagnostic units of the Super Carioca Health Center in Benfica, Rio de Janeiro.

During the campaign, Lula had already said that vaccination would be required.

Bolsa familia Is a kind of universal basic income guaranteed to tens of millions, but only, it now turns out, if they dance to Lula’s tune. (Photo internet reproduction)
During the transition, Senator Humberto Costa (PT) also made statements about the conditions of the Bolsa Família program.

Accompanied by the first lady, Rosangela da Silva, Janja, the health minister, Nísia Trindade, the mayor of Rio de Janeiro, Eduardo Paes, and governor Cláudio Castro (PL),

Lula also said that the program would again require prenatal care for pregnant women when they are beneficiaries of the aid.

The president didn't explain if the covid vaccine will also be required from children or just the doses of the traditional vaccines, which are part of the child vaccination calendar.

In one of his speeches, he mentioned both the vaccine against covid and the children's vaccination campaign, which will have the return of Zé Gotinha and the participation of Xuxa Meneguel, Lula's supporter in the electoral campaign.

"Now the Zé Gotinha campaign will begin. We can't hesitate; we can't play around. It is a question of science. If there are ten covid vaccines, 50 to take, I will take as many as necessary because I like my life. I think everyone has a duty to their children's life, take them [to vaccinate] at the right age," Lula said.

Health Minister Nísia Trindade also spoke but did not say which vaccines would be required.

"Vaccination is a child's right," Nísia declared about the requirement of proof of vaccination to receive Bolsa Família.

Children's vaccination – including doses against polio, viral triplet (measles, mumps, and rubella), and tuberculosis – has fallen since 2015. In 2021, for example, polio vaccination coverage did not reach 70%, when the recommended is 95%.

Bolsa Família stopped requiring the vaccination of children up to 6 years old when the Bolsonaro government reformulated it in 2021 and started to be called Auxílio Brasil.

The other conditions for maintaining the benefit, such as school attendance and prenatal care by pregnant beneficiaries, are no longer required.

The Bolsa Família will maintain the R$600, paid during the Bolsonaro government, and an additional R$150 per child up to 6 years old.

With information from Revista Oeste

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(so jsut take the vaccine, but we removed the other rules, because really, we don't giva fuck what you do at this point...(just sayin))

The Bolsa Família will maintain the R$600, paid during the Bolsonaro government, and an additional R$150 per child up to 6 years old.

With information from Revista Oeste

Government, stats, markets, censorship: feb10 **$160 Billion Buyback Revival**

Bumper buyback announcements worth more than $160 billion from the likes of Meta Platforms Inc., BNP Paribas SA and Equinor ASA have brought enthusiastic responses this earnings season. Those that suspended programs — such as Carlsberg A/S and British American Tobacco Plc — or shied away from setting out new plans have been punished. Both in the US and Europe, buyback

announcers have outperformed benchmark indexes by 6 percentage points in the past year.

After slowing down last year as firms braced for a bleaker economic outlook, stock repurchase plans have roared back in 2023, led by energy firms such as Chevron Corp. and Exxon Corp. as soaring oil prices brought cash flooding in. That’s despite 53% of the participants in Bank of America Corp.’s latest fund manager survey saying they’d rather see corporates shoring up balance sheets, and less than a fifth opting for higher shareholder returns.

Not even a new US tax on buybacks or calls for further levies by President Joe Biden have acted as a deterrent, and at $132 billion in January in the US, repurchase plans notched the best ever start to a year.

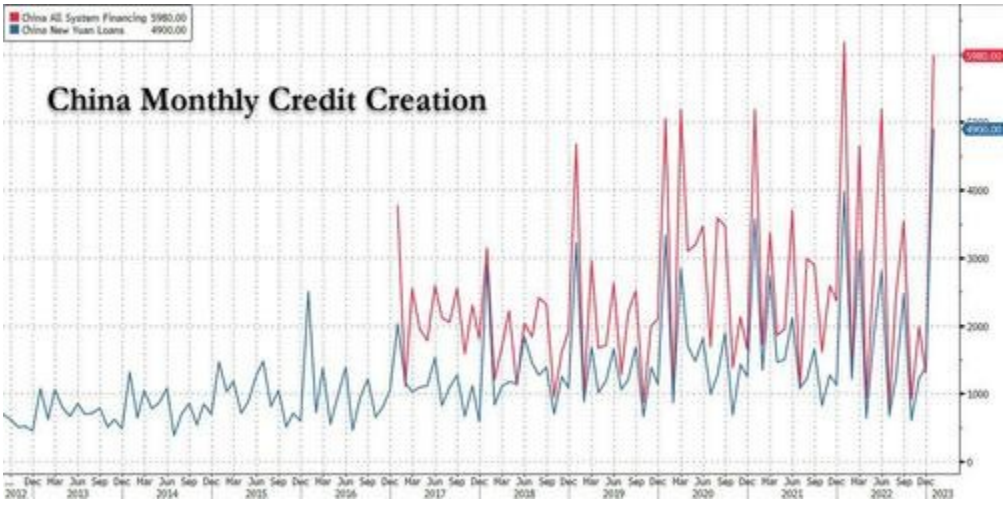
Journal, markets, china: feb10 **this is due to chinese reopening, I think.**

Then two weeks later, we got confirmation that this was indeed coming, when a local news paper said that "China Bank Lending in Jan. May Hit Record at Over 4T Yuan", to which **our response was that China had just wasted 3 years in another pointless deleveraging experiment to get back where it started: with massive credit injections as the only means for growth.**

like....wutt., anyways, got it finally..

what confused me I guess is that zh opened by with a statement about how it was wrong for china to be doing what experts were already , like, expecting them to be doing....

Fast forward to today when just as we previewed a month ago, the Chinese Credit Flood arrived with a bang, and a record 4.9 trillion in new loans, which smashed expectations as did the **Total Social Financing which came at a near record 6 trillion yuan, or almost $1 trillion in total new credit (i.e., new money) in just one month!**



but this was already expected, as the reader eventually sees later in the article when they see analyst expectations were , in line -- at least compared to the impression the reader is given at the beginning of the article.

this reuters, msm style article does a much better job, although you still learn more form the zh article.

A strong rebound in credit demand will be essential for an economic revival this year after harsh COVID measures and a crisis in the property sector dragged China’s growth down to 3% in 2022, one of its worst rates in nearly half a century.

January’s new loans more than tripled December’s tally and exceeded analysts’ expectations, according to data released by the People’s Bank of China (PBOC) on Friday.

Analysts polled by Reuters had predicted new yuan loans would jump to 4 trillion yuan in January, from 1.4 trillion yuan in December and above the previous monthly record of 3.98 trillion yuan in January 2022.

Chinese banks tend to issue more loans at the beginning of the year to gain higher-quality customers and win market share, but the size of the increase spurred hopes that business and consumer confidence is improving rapidly after the anti-COVID curbs were suddenly lifted in December.

China, government: feb10 **Total Social Financing, China**

TSF is comprised of a total of ten sub-indices including:

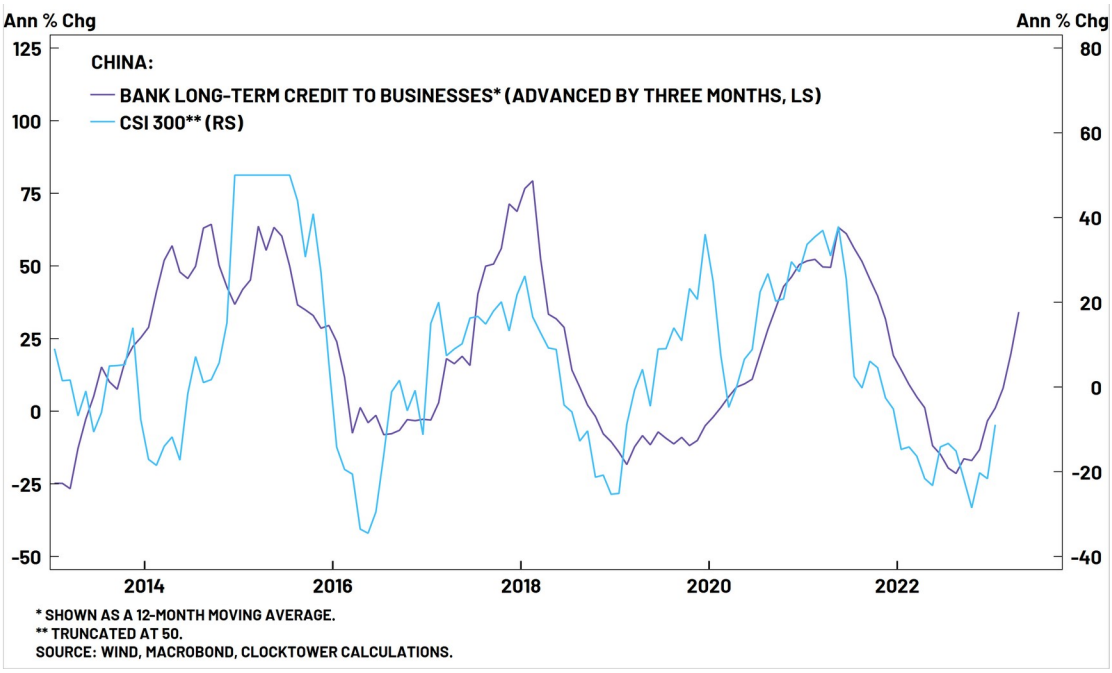
1. RMB loans.
2. Foreign currency loans.
3. Entrusted loans.
4. Trust loans.
5. Undiscounted bank bills of acceptance.
6. Corporate bonds.
7. Non-financial corporate domestic equity financing.
8. Insurance company repayments.
9. Investment property.
10. Financing via other financial instruments.

Li Wei, then chair of the State Council's Development Research Centre, said that the introduction of TSF was part of efforts by the central government to contain the inflation created by the stimulus plan launched in the wake of the Great Financial Crisis to shore up China's economic growth.

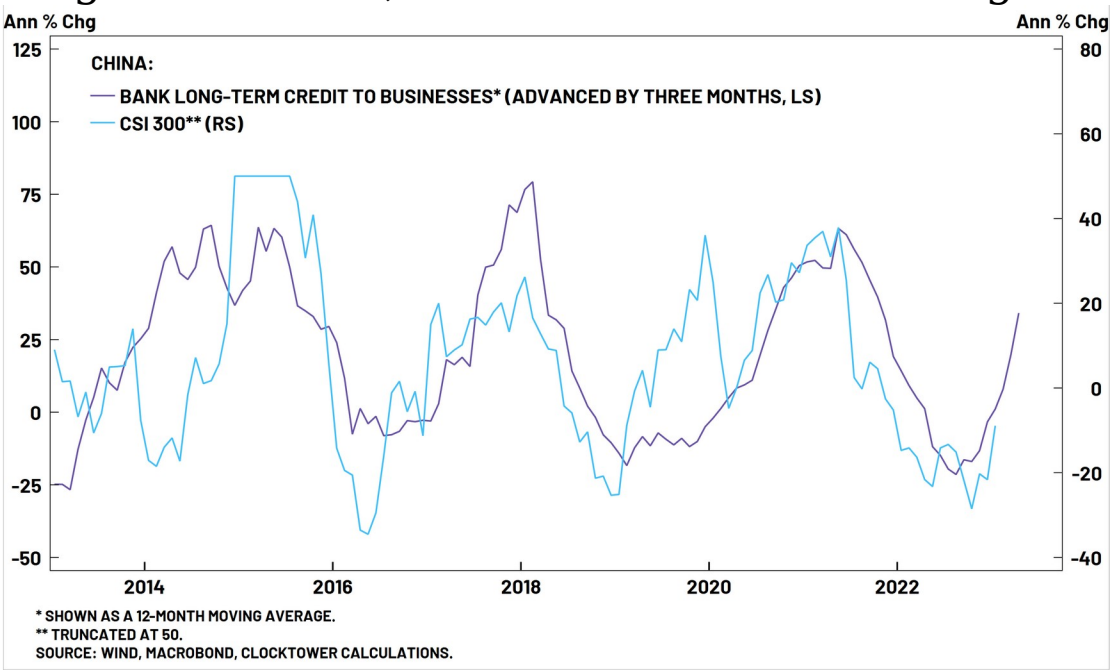
here's an example from a zh report. just looking intpo this now

Bottom line, the January loan and credit data came red hot as we expected and as China warned, clearly expecting this outcome and hinting that there is much more to come (no surprise that the PBOC released more than 1trillion yuan in new liquidity in just the past three days). The acceleration in bank loans reflected policy support - commercial banks extended more loans to property developers after the "property 16 measures", and policy banks' credit facility targeting at infrastructure investment in recent months likely also added to overall RMB loan growth. At the same time, the sharp upward reversal in TSF growth indicates that Beijing has fully capitulated when it comes to new containing the next credit bubble and is now pursuing it wholeheartedly as it hopes to reverse three years of subdued growth by China's economy during its Zero Covid nightmare.

The question is how soon and how extensively China's massive credit impulse reboot will flood the world. One thing is clear: the burst higher in credit will lead to an even more powerful bounce in Chinese stocks in the near term.



Stats, markets, government, readlater, journal: feb10 interesting correlation, but would need to see a longer timescale, of course. But interesting..



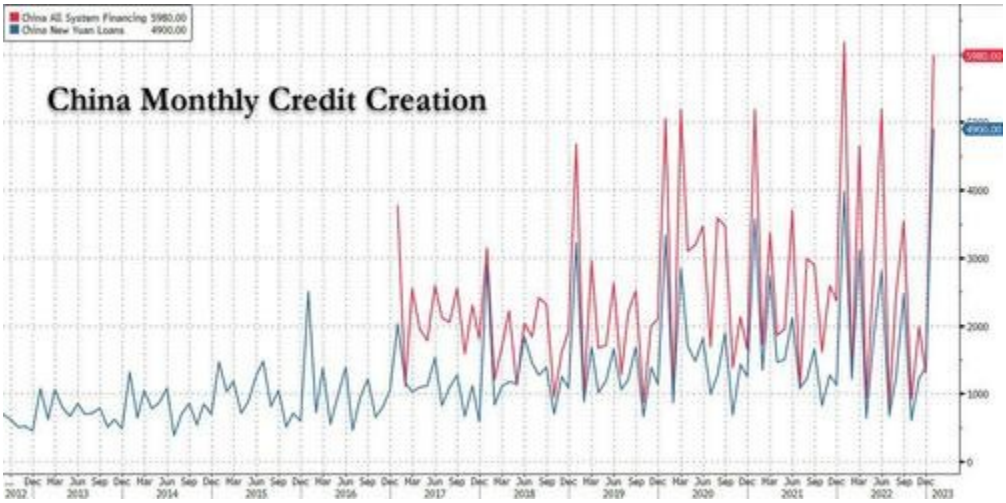
China's Credit Monster Is Back: Beijing Injects Nearly $1 Trillion In New Money In One Month

BY TYLER DURDEN
FRIDAY, FEB 10, 2023 - 12:55 PM

One month ago, when looking at the latest Chinese credit data, we said that Beijing's credit flood is coming, even if the December data was a disappointment.

Then two weeks later, we got confirmation that this was indeed coming, when a local news paper said that "China Bank Lending in Jan. May Hit Record at Over 4T Yuan", to which our response was that China had just wasted 3 years in another pointless deleveraging experiment to get back where it started: with massive credit injections as the only means for growth.

Fast forward to today when just as we previewed a month ago, the Chinese Credit Flood arrived with a bang, and a record 4.9 trillion in new loans, which smashed expectations as did the **Total Social Financing which came at a near record 6 trillion yuan, or almost $1 trillion in total new credit (i.e., new money) in just one month!**



The big picture: Total RMB loans surprised the market to the upside mainly on stronger corporate loans – corporate loan growth accelerated to 23.7% month-over-month annualized in January from 16.9% in December, although short-term corporate loans grew faster than medium to long term loans. Household loan growth slowed in contrast – medium to long term loans to households (mostly mortgages) contracted in January vs December last year amid weak property transactions and early repayment of mortgages. Total social financing and M2 beat expectations as well on the back of stronger loan growth.

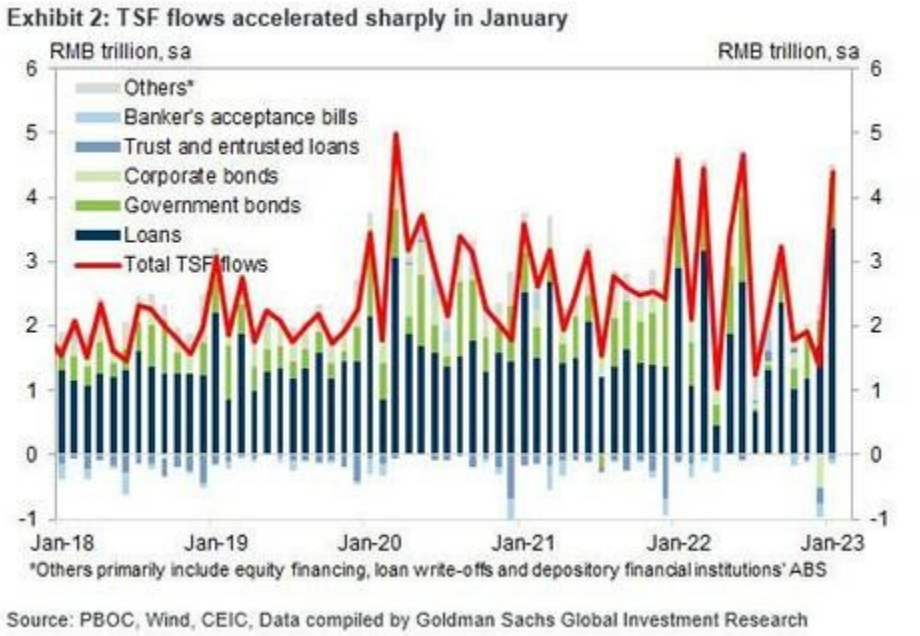
The key numbers:

- **New CNY loans:** RMB 4900BN in January (RMB loans to the real economy: RMB 4930BN) vs. Bloomberg consensus: RMB 4200BN.
- **Outstanding CNY loan growth:** 11.3% yoy in January (+12.7% mom sa ann, estimated by GS); December: 11.1% yoy (+12.1% mom sa ann).

- **Total social financing**: RMB 5980 billion in January, vs. consensus: RMB 5400bn
- **TSF stock growth:** 9.4% yoy in January, vs. 9.6% in December. The implied month-on-month growth of TSF stock: 11.5% in January (seasonally adjusted annualized rate), more than double the 4.8% December rate.
- **M2:** 12.6% yoy in January (21% mom sa ann estimated by GS) vs. Bloomberg consensus: 11.7% yoy, December: 11.8% yoy (+2.5% mom sa ann).

Courtesy of Goldman's Maggie Wei, here are the main points from the report:

- **1. January total social financing (TSF) came in above market expectations, mainly on stronger loan growth.** The sequential growth of TSF stock accelerated to 11.5% mom sa annualized in January from 4.8% in December, and in year-on-year terms, TSF stock growth slowed to 9.4% from 9.6% in December. Among major TSF components, new CNY loans rose strongly after seasonal adjustment, **and shadow banking credit turned less negative as well.** Trust loans, entrusted loans and undiscounted bankers' acceptance bills combined contracted by RMB 140bn in January, vs a contraction of RMB 453bn in December last year. **Corporate bond showed net issuance of RMB 91bn, vs net redemption of RMB 505bn in December,** and government bond net issuance rose to RMB 794bn, from RMB 425bn in December.



- **2. Overall CNY loans came in well above market expectations, and the sequential growth of RMB loans accelerated to 12.7% mom sa annualized from 12.1% in December.** Year-on-year growth of RMB loans was 11.3% in January, edging up from 11.1% in December. Based on loan breakdown by different sectors after our seasonal adjustment, corporate loan growth

accelerated while household loan growth slowed. In particular, household short-term loan growth slowed to 3.4% month-over-month annualized from 5.7% in December, and household medium to long term loans, which are mostly mortgages, contracted by 2.2% in January from 5.2% expansion in December last year, on the back of slow property transactions and early repayment of mortgages, despite on-going property policy easing.

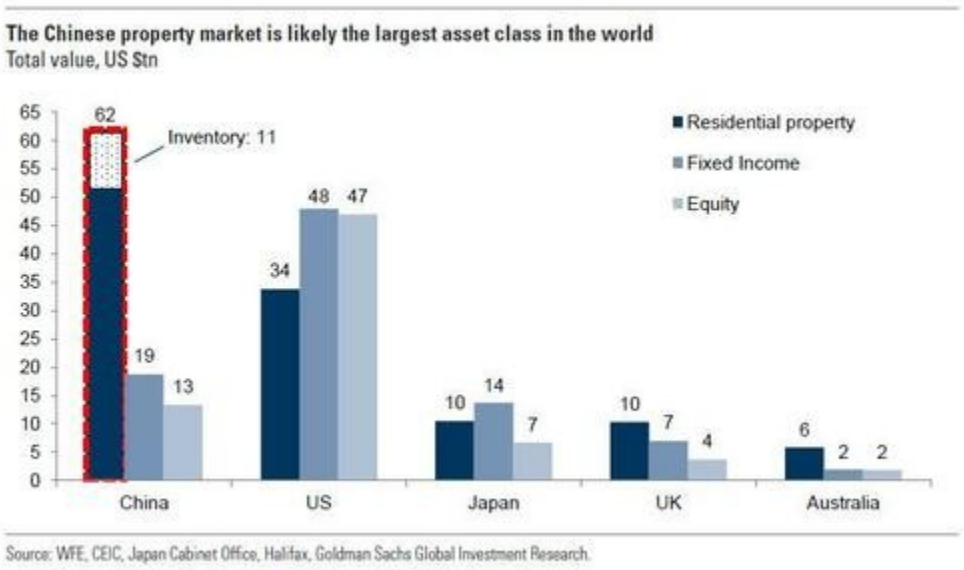
- **3. M2 growth accelerated to 12.6% yoy in January from 11.8% in December,** above market expectations and the highest since 2016. FX inflows have likely been quite strong in January, adding to the overall M2 growth in the month, besides the contribution from faster RMB loan growth.

- **4. January loan and credit data were stronger than expectations, mostly on higher RMB loans to the corporate sector.** The acceleration in corporate loans reflected policy support and some improvement in credit demand – policymakers urged commercial banks to accelerate loan extensions and market color suggests faster loan growth in infrastructure and manufacturing sectors. However, corporate short-term loans grew faster than long-term loans – short-term loans expanded by 39.3% month-over-month annualized, vs 5.4% in December last year, and medium to long term loans expanded by 28.2% month-over-month annualized, vs 24.4% in December. Whether the fast speed of corporate loan growth could be sustainable thus remains to be seen. In contrast, the weak household loans and in particular household medium to long term loan growth highlighted the challenges in the property sector – despite the on-going policy easing in the sector, households chose to repay mortgages early amid falling mortgages rates and relatively conservative expectations on future property prices.
- **5. PBOC revised the statistical standards for money and credit data this month by including credit extensions from consumer credit companies,** wealth management companies, and financial asset investment companies to the loan and TSF data, though this impact is relatively small. According to the PBOC, total loan extensions by these companies stood at RMB 841bn in January, around 0.4% of outstanding RMB loan stock.

Bottom line, the January loan and credit data came red hot as we expected and as China warned, clearly expecting this outcome and hinting that there is much more to come (no surprise that the PBOC released more than 1trillion yuan in new liquidity in just the past three days). The acceleration in bank loans reflected policy support - commercial banks extended more loans to property developers after the "property 16 measures", and policy banks' credit facility targeting at infrastructure investment in recent months likely also added to overall RMB loan growth. At the same time, the sharp upward reversal in TSF growth indicates that Beijing has fully capitulated when it comes to new containing the next credit bubble and is now pursuing it wholeheartedly as it hopes to reverse three years of subdued growth by China's economy during its Zero Covid nightmare.

The question is how soon and how extensively China's massive credit impulse reboot will flood the world. One thing is clear: the burst higher in credit will lead to an even more powerful bounce in Chinese stocks in the near term.

How widely that spreads across the globe remains to be seen and will be a function of how much inflation China manages to export to the world in the next year. This a topic we discussed in "Nikileaks Spooks Markets That Chinese Reopening May Be Inflationary, But Wall Street Disagrees." But what is perhaps most important is that the wobbly foundation of the world's biggest asset bubble - China's property market..



... is about to be reinforced with monetary concrete, as discussed in "In Huge Policy Reversal, China Will Ease "Three Red Lines" Rule To Kickstart World's Biggest Asset Bubble", and not long after expect all global "high beta" asset classes to follow suit.

War, Erdogan, iran, middle east: feb10 **israel bombins in syria, recent..**

SOHR also said that the strikes coincided with air patrols carried out by US coalition drones.

The Al-Bukamal border crossing has been open since 2019 for travel and commerce, despite the closure of the other border crossings between the two countries. Dozens of trucks pass through this crossing on a daily basis, including food and aid trucks, as well as oil tankers, aimed at alleviating the severe shortages caused by the illegal US sanctions and economic warfare against Syria and Lebanon.

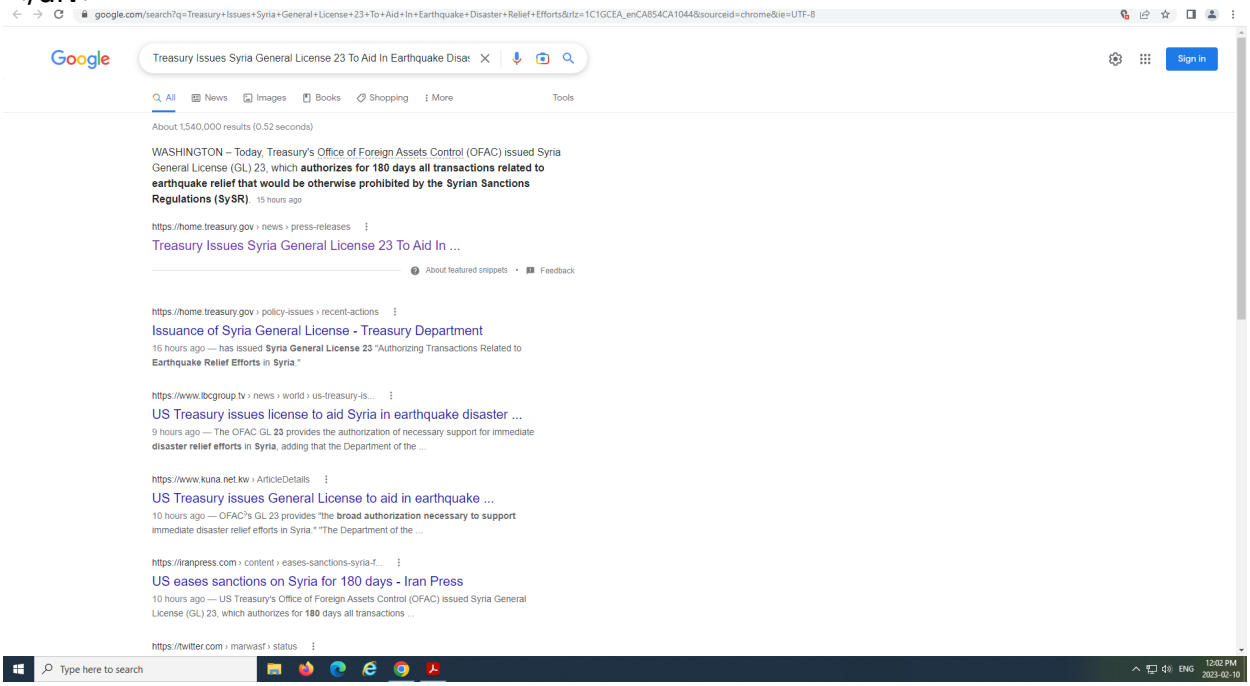
On 9 November 2022, large explosions rocked the outskirts of the Al-Bukamal area following airstrikes near the Syrian-Iraqi border. Israel's chief of staff at the time, Aviv Kochavi, admitted during a press conference around a month later that Tel Aviv was behind the attack.

Former Israeli air force general and military intelligence chief, Amos Yadlin, said in reference to yesterday's attack: "We all understand that there is a whole plan to stop the transfer of advanced weapons from Iran to Hezbollah. This attack proves that there is very accurate intelligence and there is an ability to operate in very remote places."

War, Erdogan: feb10 **u.s. makes temporary exemption to longstanding syria economic sanctions in light of, force majeure....**

<time datetime="2023-02-10T15:30:00Z">February 10, 2023</time> Treasury Sanctions Corrupt Elites Across Bulgarian Political Spectrum <time datetime="2023-02-10T14:10:00Z">February 10, 2023</time> Treasury Takes Action Related to Excepted Foreign State and Excepted Real Estate Foreign States <time datetime="2023-02-10T00:40:40Z">February 9, 2023</time> Treasury Issues Syria

General License 23 To Aid In Earthquake Disaster Relief Efforts


google.com/search?q=Treasury+Issues+Syria+General+License+23+To+Aid+In+Earthquake+Disaster+Relief+Efforts&rlz=1C1GCEA_enCA854CA1044&sourceid=chrome&ie=UTF-8
Google
Treasury Issues Syria General License 23 To Aid In Earthquake Disas
Sign in
All
News
Images
Books
Shopping
More
Tools
About 1,540,000 results (0.52 seconds)
WASHINGTON – Today, Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) issued Syria General License (GL) 23, which authorizes for 180 days all transactions related to earthquake relief that would be otherwise prohibited by the Syrian Sanctions Regulations (SySR). 15 hours ago
https://home.treasury.gov › news › press-releases
Treasury Issues Syria General License 23 To Aid In ...
About featured snippets
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Issuance of Syria General License - Treasury Department
16 hours ago — has issued Syria General License 23 "Authorizing Transactions Related to Earthquake Relief Efforts in Syria."
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US Treasury issues license to aid Syria in earthquake disaster ...
9 hours ago — The OFAC GL 23 provides the authorization of necessary support for immediate disaster relief efforts in Syria, adding that the Department of the ...
https://www.kuna.net.kw › ArticleDetails
US Treasury issues General License to aid in earthquake ...
10 hours ago — OFAC?s GL 23 provides "the broad authorization necessary to support immediate disaster relief efforts in Syria." "The Department of the ...
https://iranpress.com › content › eases-sanctions-syria-f...
US eases sanctions on Syria for 180 days - Iran Press
10 hours ago — US Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) issued Syria General License (GL) 23, which authorizes for 180 days all transactions ...
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2023-02-10

Stats, sanctions, government, journal: feb10 **from 2021: "U.S. waives sanctions on Nord Stream 2 as Biden seeks to mend Europe ties". The article creates the impression that the united states is caving to russia pressure. They can't stop its construction; it will bypass ukraine; it will force reliance on russian gas, america is making concessions. This article was written in 2021, of course, long before nordstream was 'taken out'.**

"Today's actions demonstrate the administration’s commitment to energy security in Europe, consistent with the President’s pledge to rebuild relationships with our allies and partners in Europe," Blinken said in a release, issued as he met with Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov in Iceland for an Arctic Council conference.

President Joe Biden, a Democrat, has opposed the $11 billion project that would take Russian gas from the Arctic to Germany, saying it is a bad deal for Europe. The United States is an exporter of natural gas to Europe in the form of LNG, but Russian gas is cheaper.

5 minute readMay 19, 20218:25 AM ADTLast Updated 2 years ago

U.S. waives sanctions on Nord Stream 2 as Biden seeks to mend Europe ties

By Andrea Shalal
, Timothy Gardner
and Steve Holland

A road sign directs traffic towards the Nord Stream 2 gas line landfall facility entrance in Lubmin, Germany, September 10, 2020. REUTERS/Hannibal Hanschke/File Photo

WASHINGTON, May 19 (Reuters) - The Biden administration waived sanctions on the company behind Russia's Nord Stream 2 gas pipeline to Germany and its chief executive, Secretary of State Antony Blinken said on Wednesday, a move decried by critics of the project in Congress.

A State Department report sent to Congress concluded that Nord Stream 2 AG and its CEO, Matthias Warnig, an ally of Russian President Vladimir Putin, engaged in sanctionable activity. But Blinken immediately waived those sanctions, saying that it was in the U.S. national interest.

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The decision came as the Biden administration seeks to rebuild ties with Germany, after relations deteriorated under Republican former President Donald Trump. The waivers have no specific end date, but can be rescinded by the secretary of state.

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The State Department imposed sanctions on four Russian ships, including the Akademik Cherskiy, which began pipe-laying for the project in Danish waters in April. It also imposed the measures on five other Russian entities, including the Russian Marine Rescue Service.

Latest Updates

- Russia to cut oil output by 500,000 bpd in March
- Oil prices rise more than 1% on Russian plan to cut output
- Analysis: Oil rebound more likely this year, $100 a barrel possible, OPEC sources say
- U.S. diesel prices drop as Europe's ban on Russian imports begins
- Change to BP climate goal a concern for emissions-focused investors - shareholder

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Washington fears Russia could use Nord Stream 2 as leverage to weaken European Union states by increasing dependency on Moscow.

STOPPING PIPELINE IS A 'LONG SHOT'

Russia's state energy company, Gazprom (GAZP.MM), and its Western partners are racing to finish the pipeline to send natural gas under the Baltic Sea. The project, now about 95% complete, would bypass Ukraine, depriving it of lucrative transit fees and potentially undermining its struggle against Russian aggression.

A U.S. official conceded that stopping the project would be difficult but that Washington would keep trying. "We inherited a pipeline that was over 90% complete and so stopping it has always been a long shot," the State Department official said.

At the rate it is being constructed, Nord Stream 2 will be finished before the end of the year, if not sooner, analysts said.

U.S. lawmakers from both parties who oppose the project said the sanctions did not go far enough, as Russia could likely continue work.

Senator Jim Risch, the senior Republican on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, said the waivers will be "a gift to Putin that will only weaken the United States' leverage in the lead up to the impending Biden-Putin summit."

Biden "should do everything possible to accomplish what the Trump administration failed to do for four years: stop the completion of the Nord Stream 2 pipeline for good," said Senator Bob Menendez, a Democrat and chair of the committee.

Yuriy Vitrenko, the new CEO of Ukraine's state-owned energy company, Naftogaz, said Nord Stream 2 is Russia's "most malign and dangerous geopolitical project" and that Ukraine would ask Washington to fully apply its laws and impose sanctions to stop the pipeline.

U.S. officials hope the waiver will give time for discussions with Germany on potential negative effects of the pipeline and provide some leverage to deepen cooperation on broader issues, such as the pandemic, climate change, the economic recovery and dealing with China and Russia.

The waiver also "provides space for diplomatic engagement with Germany to address the risks that a completed pipeline would pose to Ukraine and European energy security," the State Department official told reporters.

Germany has been pressing for the United States to drop its opposition to the project, arguing that the overall relationship was too important to sacrifice over what Berlin has described as a commercial project.

"We see this as a constructive step, which we are happy to further discuss with our partners in Washington," German Foreign Minister Heiko Maas told reporters. read more
Russian officials signaled on Wednesday that waivers could help mend Washington's fraught ties with Moscow. read more

Stats, government: The United States Department of Agriculture reports that in 2020 the average American household spent 12% of its income on food. But a lot of food is simply thrown away, despite being perfectly safe to eat. The USDA Economic Research Center reports that nearly 31% of all available food is never consumed. Historically high food prices make the problem of waste seem all the more alarming.

Scientific formula

Infant formula is the only food product with a “use by” date that is both government regulated and scientifically determined. It is routinely lab tested for contamination. But infant formula also undergoes nutrition tests to determine how long it take the nutrients - particularly protein – to break down. To prevent malnutrition in babies, the “use by” date on baby formula indicates when it’s no longer nutritious.

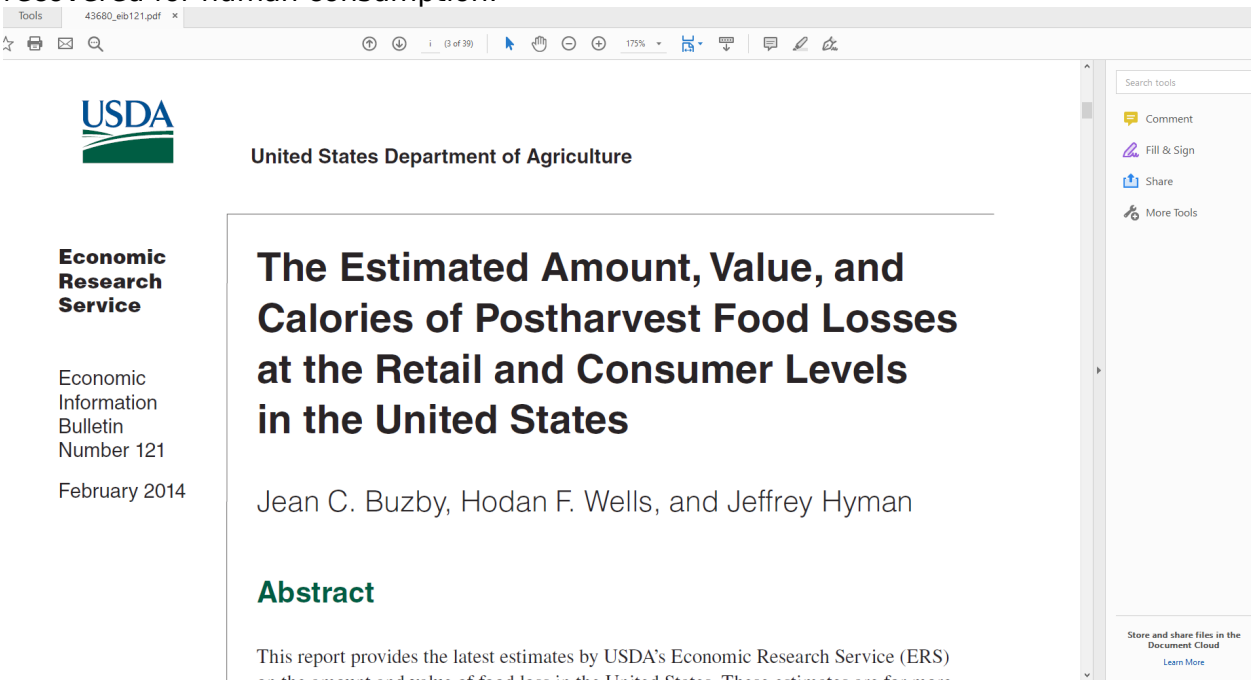
Nutrients in foods are relatively easy to measure. The FDA already does this regularly. The agency issues warnings to food producers when the nutrient contents listed on their labels don’t match what FDA’s lab finds.

https://theconversation.com/food-expiration-dates-dont-have-much-science-behind-them-a-food-safety-researcher-explains-another-way-to-know-whats-too-old-to-eat-186622

https://theconversation.com/the-uk-wastes-millions-of-tonnes-of-food-every-year-heres-how-we-can-change-that-162783

What Did the Study Find?
In the United States, 31 percent—or 133 billion pounds—of the 430 billion pounds of the available
food supply at the retail and consumer levels in 2010 went uneaten. Retail-level losses represented

10 percent (43 billion pounds) and consumer-level losses 21 percent (90 billion pounds) of
the available food supply. (Losses on the farm and between the farm and retailer were not estimated
due to data limitations for some of the food groups.)
The estimated total value of food loss at the retail and consumer levels in the United States was
$161.6 billion in 2010. The top three food groups in terms of share of total value of food loss were
meat, poultry, and fish (30 percent, $48 billion); vegetables (19 percent, $30 billion); and dairy
products (17 percent, $27 billion). The total amount of food loss represents 387 billion calories
(technically, we mean Calorie or kcal hereafter) of food not available for human consumption per
day in 2010, or 1,249 out of 3,796 calories available per American per day. Recovery costs, food
safety considerations, and other factors would reduce the amount of food that could actually be
recovered for human consumption.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USDA

United States Department of Agriculture

Economic Research Service

Economic Information Bulletin Number 121

February 2014

The Estimated Amount, Value, and Calories of Postharvest Food Losses at the Retail and Consumer Levels in the United States

Jean C. Buzby, Hodan F. Wells, and Jeffrey Hyman

Abstract

This report provides the latest estimates by USDA's Economic Research Service (ERS)

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Before ending up on a European supermarket shelf, an avocado has effectively emitted 1.3 kilograms of carbon into the atmosphere. Its production alone consumes 60 gallons of water. Despite this, the fruit will often be discarded as household waste.

Wastage occurs at each stage of the food supply chain, but household food waste is one of the most significant. British

households waste an estimated 6.7 million tonnes of food each year, amounting to approximately 32% of all purchased food items.

Household food waste is also notoriously difficult to manage. Studies show that consumers often both fail to understand the environmental consequences of food waste, and are rarely held accountable for it.

Household food waste is the result of mismanagement

Much of this wastage is avoidable and the food may have been eaten had it been better managed. This has prompted Waitrose to join a growing number of food retailers in removing date labelling, such as the “use-by” or “best-before” date, from some fresh food items in an attempt to reduce household food waste.

https://theconversation.com/scrapping-use-by-dates-could-prevent-huge-amounts-of-food-waste-heres-what-else-could-help-188085

Tech, health, ai: feb10 **Breakthrough In Blood Revitalization Could 'Delay Aging' According To Columbia University Researchers, studyfinds.org https://studyfinds.org/anti-inflammatory-drug-blood-young/**

censorship, government: EU Complains Elon Musk’s Twitter Lacks Appetite For Censorship

Elon Musk’s Twitter lagged the likes of Google, Meta, and TikTok in the fight against “disinformation” over the past six months, the European Commission said on Feb. 9, and it urged Twitter to get in line.

“I am disappointed to see that Twitter’s report lags behind others and I expect a more serious commitment to their obligations,” Vera Jourova, a European Commission vice president for values and transparency, said in a statement.

The bloc on Feb. 8 opened a Transparency Center that contains the various tech platforms’ reports, including Twitter’s.

Thierry Breton, the EU’s internal market commissioner who recently reminded Musk to follow the EU’s rules on policing content, didn’t reference Twitter

directly, but said that “it comes as no surprise that the degree of quality vary greatly according to the resources companies have allocated to this project.” There have been significant staffing cuts at Twitter since Musk took over.

Vera Jourova at the European Commission in Brussels on Sept. 20, 2018. (John Thys/AFP/Getty Images)

Six months ago, before Musk bought the social media platform, Twitter was among 34 entities that signed on to an updated EU anti-disinformation pledge called the Code of Practice on Disinformation.

Along with the recently agreed Digital Services Act—which lets regulators fine tech platforms up to 6 percent of their global turnover for violations—and draft rules on political advertising, the code is part of the European Commission’s “toolbox for fighting the spread of disinformation in the EU,” the bloc’s executive said in a June 2022 release.

While the code is nonbinding, companies that take part can ease some of their compliance requirements under the Digital Services Act, which is expected to kick in around September 2023 for tech platforms with more than 45 million users in the EU, with Twitter likely falling into that category.

Signatories were given six months to implement the commitments and issue implementation reports, which the companies did, with reports published on Feb. 8.

The progress reports include data on how much advertising revenue the companies had cut from disinformation actors, instances of manipulative behaviors detected, and how they label political ads.

Twitter’s report was the only one that was singled out for criticism, with the EU saying that it lacked data and didn’t contain information on commitments to empower fact-checkers.

Twitter didn’t respond by press time to a request by The Epoch Times for comment.

Subsequent implementation reports are due in six months.

War, Erdogan: feb10 UN Warns 'Very Little' Earthquake Aid Reaching Syria Amid US Sanctions

“The goal of UN organizations is to deliver a message about the suffering of the Syrians as a result of the sanctions imposed on their country … **These sanctions have … prevented the arrival of millions of dollars to those affected by the earthquake**,” Benlamlih told Syrian news agency SANA in an interview.

“Syria today is **suffering from a ‘double crisis’ as a result of the ongoing war since 2011, as well as the earthquake**, which made the situation more difficult … before the earthquake, there were 15 million Syrians in dire need of assistance,” he said, adding that now, the numbers have increased significantly.

One day later, UN Special Envoy for Syria, Geir Pederson, warned against the politicization of earthquake aid. “Emergency response must not be politicized … We need to do everything to make sure that there are no impediments whatsoever to the life-saving support that is needed in Syria,” Pedersen said on Thursday.

US Secretary of State Anthony Blinken on Wednesday claimed that Washington was the ‘leading provider of aid to Syria and the Syrian people,’ **despite also announcing a refusal to coordinate with the government, whose territory is inhabited by around 70 percent of the Syrian population**. On the same day as Blinken’s statement, the UN warned that “very little” aid was reaching government-held territory.

Samuel Werberg, the regional spokesman for the US State Department, claimed on Wednesay during an interview with Saudi television that Washington’s sanctions do not restrict humanitarian aid deliveries in any way. Despite this, Bassam Sabbagh, Syria’s permanent envoy to the UN, said on the same day that **international cargo planes “refuse” to land in Syrian airports due to the threat of sanctions**.

This statement comes in the aftermath of the OPCW releasing its third report on the alleged chemical attack in Douma in 2018, which was put out as the US has

been **attempting in any way it can to obstruct a potential reconciliation of ties between Syria and Turkey**, which was in the works under Russian auspices before the massive earthquake ravaged both countries.

War: feb10 **After Ordering Shootdown, Biden Casually Says China Spy Balloon "Not A Major Breach"**

Russia, energy, sanctions: feb10 Oil Jumps After Russia Says It Will Cut 500,000 Barrels Of Oil Output

Crude prices jumped this morning after a top Russian official said it would reduce oil production by 500,000 barrel-a-day, or about 5% of output, next month, in retaliation against western sanctions, Reuters reported. Deputy Prime Minister Alexander Novak said in a statement on Friday that Russia believes the mechanism of Western price caps on Russian crude and crude oil products is a destructive energy policy:

"As of today, we are fully selling the entire volume of oil produced, however, as stated earlier, we will not sell oil to those who directly or indirectly adhere to the principles of the 'price cap.'"

"In this regard, Russia will voluntarily reduce production by 500,000 barrels per day in March. This will contribute to the restoration of market relations."

Markets, government: feb1 **Japan Set To Appoint Ben Bernanke Classmate Kazuo Ueda As Next BOJ Head**

Ueda has a Ph.D. in economics from MIT and, like his classmate Ben Bernanke, was advised by Stanley Fischer" adding that he has *"largely supported the policies of Kuroda, as the next central bank governor.*"

Ueda has a Ph.D. in economics from MIT and, like his classmate Ben Bernanke, was advised by Stanley Fischer

— Nick Timiraos (@NickTimiraos) February 10, 2023

He served as a BOJ Policy Board Member from 1998 until 2005, **and his appointment would mark the first time in the post-war period that someone from an academic economics background takes on the role of BOJ governor**. At the start of this week, reports emerged that the government had sounded out Deputy Governor Masayoshi Amamiya to take over as the next governor, but that he declined (February 10, Nikkei). **Up to now, the governor post has been filled alternately by candidates from the Ministry of Finance and the BOJ, and the appointment of Kazuo Ueda would mark a departure from this practice.**

Stats, censorship, government: feb10 **Adidas Shares Crash Over $1.3 Billion Pile Of Unsold Yeezy Shoes**

Censorship, war, Erdogan: feb1 **Twitter Access Restored After Turkish Government Restricted Site**

Twitter has been restored in Turkey after it was restricted on Wednesday following the deadly earthquake in the south of the country.

“Metrics confirm access to Twitter is being restored in Turkey following hours of filtering,” tweeted web monitoring site NetBlocks early on Thursday.

It came after talks between Twitter and Turkish authorities about content being posted following the quake.

Turkey’s Deputy Transport Minister Omer Fatih Sayan said that during the discussions, he had reminded Twitter of its “responsibilities to our country after the disaster”.

“Our demands are clear, strong cooperation on disinformation and false reports, swift action against fake accounts and ... measures against content that could damage public order and security," Sayan said on Twitter.

On Wednesday, users said their access to the site was completely blocked without a VPN, while others said their access had been severely slowed.

The Turkish government regularly restricts Twitter access in the wake of disasters and incidents such as bomb attacks, supposedly as a means of countering disinformation.

In a speech on Tuesday, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan warned that he would not allow "disinformation" to spread in the wake of the earthquakes and called on Turks not to listen to "provocateurs".

Eighteen people have been detained since the earthquake after posting “provocative” social media content critical of the government’s response, AFP reported.

Gurkan Ozturan, coordinator of the rapid response unit at the European Centre for Press and Media Freedom, told Middle East Eye on Wednesday that the throttling of Twitter created unnecessary problems.

"Social media in this whole process has been crucial to coordinate efforts to amplify voices of the victims from under the debris and for rescue teams to detect their location and offer support, as well as [helping] humanitarian and civil society organisations to raise donations," he said.

"This action simply adds a new layer to the already troubled situation and creates more problems for the victims and volunteers, as well as those who are trying to hear from their loved ones from the impacted cities."

Stats, government, censorship, middle east: feb10 Iraq theft of the cnetury?: "Alia Nasif, a member of the Iraqi Integrity Committee, said in a statement that “the stolen amount was withdrawn in cash by the executive directors of five companies”, which she described as “phantoms.”

A member of the Iraqi Integrity Committee, Ali Turki, revealed on 8 February, that former minister of finance and employees of former prime minister Mustafa al-Kadhimi’s government office were involved in the case of the theft of $2.5 billion from a bank fund of Iraq’s General Tax Authority, which is considered one of the biggest corruption scandals in the country’s history, reported *Anwar* TV.

Details leaked from the General Tax Authority reveal that the $2.5 billion were withdrawn between September 2021 and August 2022. The transactions involve five companies who cashed cheques that add up to the exact amount missing.

War, middle east, Erdogan: feb10 Since Saied took control of almost all powers in July 2021 when he closed parliament and dismissed the government, Tunisia has sent signals it was open to changing its diplomatic stance with Syria.

War, Erdogan: feb10 thecradle: Lebanese officials meet with Syrian president for first time since start of war, "this was the first time a Lebanese official delegation met with the Syrian president since the start of the US-backed 11-year war"

During the meeting, Assad thanked Lebanon and all other Arab countries that provided aid to Syria after the earthquake and risked being subjected to US Caesar Act sanctions by doing so

A high-level ministerial delegation from Lebanon visited Syria on 8 February to discuss relief efforts for the country and meet with President Bashar al-Assad following the devastating 6 February earthquake that left over 16,000 Syrian and Turkish people dead.

The Lebanese delegation was received by Syrian Foreign Minister Faisal Mekdad. Upon its arrival, it expressed “solidarity with the Syrian people in this plight” and vowed to offer all capabilities “to assist in the relief efforts,” according to Lebanon’s National News Agency (NNA).

It was headed by Lebanese Foreign Minister Abdullah Bou Habib, who was accompanied by several other ministers and officials, including the Minister for Social Affairs, Hector

Hajjar, and the Director General of the Ministry of Health, Fadi Sinan.

While addressing the Syrian Foreign Ministry, the Lebanese officials expressed their condolences for the victims and promised to stand by Syria in its time of need as it “stood by Lebanon in its difficult times.”

The officials then made their way to Damascus’ Muhajireen Palace, where they were received “one by one” by the Syrian president.

During their meeting, Assad expressed “confidence in [Syria’s] ability to overcome the ordeal.” He then went over the efforts of other Arab countries that provided relief aid for Syria, which include Algeria, Egypt, and Iraq. The Syrian president expressed gratitude for this aid, which was sent from Lebanon through the Lebanese army, civil defense, and red cross.

This gratitude comes in light of the fact “that many countries [including Lebanon] are under American pressure” and that aid has been making its way to Syria from other Arab countries in disregard of US-imposed Caesar Act sanctions, which many have warned pose a grave threat to the humanitarian situation in Syria, particularly following the earthquake.

“The countries of the region realize that America is a friend and ally to nobody … so we appreciate [and take into consideration] the circumstances [of all these countries],” Assad added.

This is the second high level delegation to visit Syria from Lebanon since the start of the war, the first of which took

place in September 2021 and related to a US-sponsored energy cooperation deal that never materialized.

However, this was the first time a Lebanese official delegation met with the Syrian president since the start of the US-backed 11-year war, representing warm and brotherly ties between the two countries despite a tense history.

On 7 February, Lebanese Minister of Public Works Ali Hamieh – who was part of the delegation – announced that "the ports of Beirut and Tripoli, as well as Beirut airport, are exempt from all fees and taxes for the delivery of any aid to Syria."

War, Erdogan: feb10 **Shielded From War, Syria Town Emptied Out by Earthquake and Floods**

Shielded from 12 years of civil war, the small northwest Syrian town of Al-Tloul near the Turkish border has been devastated by Monday's huge earthquake and ensuing flooding that has pushed out nearly all of its inhabitants, residents said.

Three residents told Reuters the earthquake killed between 35 to 40 people and left most buildings either destroyed or damaged in the small town that hugs the border, separated from Turkey only by the Orontes river.

Following the quake, locals discovered cracks in a small dam nearby and attempted to fortify it with sandbags, Al-Tloul resident Abdelrahmen al-Jassim said.

But heavy rains over the past week, which have also impeded earthquake relief efforts across the region, swelled the river.

As the call to prayer went out around 4 a.m. on Thursday, the dam gave way and the flooding came, al-Jassim said, covering fields and filling homes with knee-high murky brown water.

"Women and children are now staying under the olive trees without anything. And who can you ask (for help)? Everyone is devastated. God help us," he said.

The earthquake has killed more than 3,200 people in Syria, nearly 2,000 of whom resided in the country's northwest that already faced a humanitarian crisis after years of isolation and bombardment by the Syrian government and its allies.

Almost no outside help has come to the northwest since the earthquake, with the first U.N. aid convoy comprised of six trucks entering Thursday morning.

This stands in stark contrast with a massive international relief effort in neighboring Turkey.

In Al-Tloul, people said they had been left to fend for themselves, save for when rescue workers came after the tremor to remove survivors and the dead from the rubble.

Firas Aziz Hawash, a longtime resident of the town, said that some 500 families had been displaced by the flooding.

"The water is in the homes now, there is no one left in the town," he said. "You cant live there anymore. It's a tragedy."

(This story has been refiled to change the day to Thursday from Wednesday, in paragraph 5)

(Reporting by Khalil Ashawi; Writing by Timour Azhari; Editing by Bill Berkrot)

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Tags: Turkey, Syria, earthquakes, Middle East, floods, Europe

War, Erdogan: feb10 US Church Head Urges Biden to Lift Sanctions on Syria to Help Earthquake Victims

The head of Presbyterian Church (USA) has called on the Biden administration to lift sanctions on Syria so that humanitarian aid can reach earthquake victims.

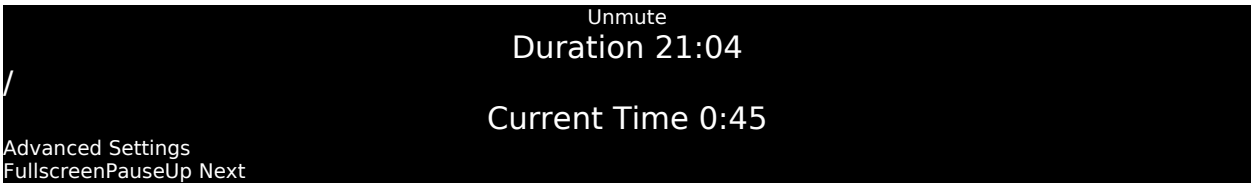
A massive earthquake clocked in with a magnitude of 7.8 hit the Turkish town of Nurdagi, which is near the Syrian border, resulting in more than 11,200 deaths.

The Rev. J. Herbert Nelson, stated clerk for PCUSA Office of the General Assembly, said in a statement Tuesday that the United States should lift its sanctions on Syria.

“This earthquake adds yet more misery to the people of Syria who, in recent years, have been slowly trying to rebuild their homes and their lives.”

According to Nelson, “the effect of the sanctions slows down transfers of aid” to its partners working in the region, sometimes delaying the delivery of humanitarian aid by months at a time.

“Lifting the sanctions will enable the aid that is required for the immediate emergency to flow smoothly and equip people to rebuild their homes and lives in the coming weeks and months,” said Nelson.



“This would be the most compassionate action our government could take in response to this tragedy. We urge that the well-being and needs of the most vulnerable people in Syria and throughout the region — who have suffered so greatly — be at the center of our concern.”

In addition to the initial 7.8 magnitude earthquake that was felt as far as Lebanon and Israel, there have been multiple aftershocks in the region, including one that registered as a 7.5 magnitude quake.

"I have never felt anything like it in the 40 years I've lived," said a resident of Gaziantep, southern Turkey, as quoted by the BBC. “We were shaken at least three times very strongly, like a baby in a crib.”

According to the U.S. Department of State, Syria was labeled an official state sponsor of terror back in 1979, and various sanctions were implemented against the Middle Eastern nation in 2004 and 2011.

In addition to the PCUSA, the Middle East Council of Churches have also called on the United States to immediately end sanctions against Syria "so sanctions may not turn into a crime against humanity."

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War, erdogan: feb9 **thecradle.co: In addition to the deaths and injuries, hundreds of thousands of**

people across both countries have now been left homeless in the middle of winter

Tech, censorship, government, stats: feb9 **if this is true, this is fucked. "Facial Recognition Systems to Be Introduced at Russian Land Borders"**

The Russian authorities have invited tenders for a contract worth 830 million rubles ($11.3 million) for the provision of facial recognition technology at some of its land borders, according to an announcement on Russia's public procurement portal reported by independent Russian media outlet Polygon on Thursday.

The facial recognition technology, which is to be installed at multiple Russian border crossings with China, Kazakhstan, Poland and Lithuania, is intended for the cross-checking of traveler identities with data stored in a "biometric database," though the tender call gave no further details.

The delivery of the new technology is due by Nov. 25, 2023, according to the tender announcement.

The move to modernize Russia's dozens of land border crossings comes in the wake of the huge Exodus of citizens seen in late 2022 after President Vladimir Putin announced a "partial" mobilization of military reservists to bolster Russian forces in Ukraine.

Fearing detention should they attempt to leave the country from one of its major airports, many Russians fleeing mobilization — and even political activists under house arrest — managed to leave Russia by exiting through

one of its remote border crossings due to issues with the current video surveillance systems used by the immigration authorities.

War, Erdogan: feb9 **quake: middleeastey, death toll for Turkey has risen to 17,674 and the number of injured has hit 72,879, according to the country's vice president, Fuat Oktay, 1 hour ago**

: Feb 09, 2023 8:32 AM AST | Last Updated: 3 hours ago, cbc

"Especially in this cold, it is not possible to live here," he said. "People are warming up around campfires, but campfires can only warm you up so much. ... If people haven't died from being stuck under the rubble, they'll die from the cold."

Turkish authorities said Thursday that the death toll had risen to more than 17,100 in the country, with more than 70,000 injured. In Syria, which includes government- and rebel-held areas, more than 3,100 have been reported dead and more than 5,000 injured.

It was not clear how many people were still unaccounted for in both countries.

"There's no hope," said Yilmaz, 67, who had six relatives, including a three-month-old baby, trapped inside. "We can't give up our hope in God, but they entered the building with listening devices and dogs, and there was nothing."

One survivor, Ahmet Tokgoz, called for the government to evacuate people from the region. Many of those who have lost their homes found shelter in tents, stadiums and other temporary accommodation, but others have slept outdoors.
“Especially in this cold, it is not possible to live here,” he said. “If people haven’t died from being stuck under the rubble, they’ll die from the cold.”

Turkey’s disaster agency raised the country’s confirmed death toll on Thursday night to 17,406, while the number of lives lost in neighbouring Syria stood at 3,317.

Cold weather hampering rescue efforts

Rescuers are working in freezing temperatures to dig through the remains of buildings flattened by the earthquakes.

More bad weather is expected to hit the region, further hampering rescue operations. Downed buildings and destroyed roads have also made it difficult to find survivors and get crucial aid into affected areas. Several airports have also been closed after being damaged by the earthquakes.

War, Erdogan, middle east: feb9 **quake: President Recep Erdogan said the quake is the country's largest disaster since the 1939 Erzincan earthquake that killed upwards of 30,00 people., zh reports**

For 100,000-plus rescue personnel, the task is monumental, as there are thousands of collapsed buildings to search. Blocked roads and other logistical challenges have made it challenging for first responders. They're also racing against time as a person's survival probability drops due to a lack of food and water.

We noted yesterday that President Erdogan declared a three-month emergency for ten of Turkey's 81 provinces. He said the measure is because of the widespread destruction in cities, some of which have an equivalent population size to small US cities.

Here's the latest map detailing the quake-affected areas.

Since the powerful earthquake struck southeastern Turkey before dawn on Monday, there have been 650 aftershocks in the region.

And here's more footage of the shocking aftermath.

- **Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said: "We can call it the disaster of the century."**

The death toll in the devastating 7.8 magnitude earthquake that hit Turkey and Syria this week has climbed even higher: 19,000 people are dead.

And thousands are reportedly still missing under rubble and collapsed buildings.

In a brief press conference Thursday, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said: "We can call it the disaster of the century" and said the devastation spans 10 provinces.

In the aftermath of the earthquake, towns and buildings across the two countries were decimated.

business insider,

19,000 dead: 'Disaster of the Century' as thousands are still missing in Turkey and Syria's horrific earthquake

Africa, war: feb9 **somaliland counter-attack after losing city held for 16 years: Nearly 300 have been killed since the troops launched the attack on February 5 to retake the city, which was the epicenter of the ongoing protests calling for reunification with Somalia, according to Hamda Jama, a senior nurse at the city's maternity hospital. Most of the deaths occurred on Wednesday.**

Las Anod, which was captured by Somaliland from Somalia's autonomous region of Puntland in 2007, has become the epicenter of ongoing unionist protests since late December, forcing the occupying Somaliland troops to withdraw to the city's outskirts in early January 2023.

China, war: feb9 **Japan Plans to Replace Military Aircraft With Drones**

The Japanese ministry of defense is considering replacing several manned aircraft with unmanned platforms.

The "scrap and build" approach includes decommissioning 12 Ground Self-Defense Force AH-64D combat helicopters, 47 AH-1S anti-tank attack helicopters, and 33 OH-1 observation helicopters, *Yomiuri Shimbun* revealed, citing sources.

The service could have a drone unit, including attack drones, in the future, the outlet added.

SeaGuardian Deployment

In addition, the Maritime Self-Defense Force is mulling downsizing its fleet of 33 P-1 patrol aircraft and 75 SH-60K patrol helicopters.

The service plans to start deploying US-made SeaGuardian unmanned aerial vehicles on a trial basis this year at the Hachinohe air base in Aomori Prefecture.

The plan includes surveillance operations performed through a fleet of SeaGuardians in the future.

Air Self-Defense Force Fleet Decommissioning

Finally, the Air Self-Defense Force's U-125A aircraft, used for search and rescue missions, could also be decommissioned, leaving its tasks performed by helicopters.

The development comes as Tokyo is planning to raise its defense budget by 56 percent to $318 billion over the next five years.

War, Erdogan, middle east, sanctions: feb9 **also didn't know this: "Syria has been designated a State Sponsor of Terrorism since December 1979"**

(This measure has not been amended since it was passed by the Senate on November 11, 2003. The summary of that version is repeated here.)

Sec. 4) Declares as U.S. policy that: (1) Syria should bear responsibility for attacks committed by Hizballah and other terrorist groups with offices or other facilities in Syria, or bases in areas of Lebanon occupied by Syria; (2) the United States will work to deny Syria the ability to support acts of international terrorism and efforts to develop or acquire weapons of mass destruction; (3) the Secretary of State will continue to list Syria as a state sponsor of terrorism until it ends support for terrorism, including its support of Hizballah and other terrorist groups in Lebanon and its hosting of terrorist groups in Damascus, and comes into full compliance with U.S. law relating to terrorism and United Nations Security Council Resolution 1373 (September 28, 2001); (4) the full restoration of Lebanon's sovereignty, political independence, and territorial integrity is in the U.S. national security interest; (5) Syria is in violation of Security Council Resolution 520 through its continued occupation of Lebanese territory and its encroachment upon its political independence; (6) Syria's obligation to withdraw from Lebanon is not conditioned upon progress in the Israeli-Syrian or Israeli-Lebanese peace process but derives from Syria's obligation under Security Council Resolution 520; (7) Syria's acquisition of weapons of mass destruction and ballistic missile programs threaten the security of the Middle East and U.S. national security interests; (8) Syria will be held accountable for any harm to Coalition armed forces or to any U.S. citizen in Iraq if the Government of Syria is found to be responsible owing to its facilitation of terrorist activities and its shipments of military supplies to Iraq; and (9) the United States will not provide any assistance to Syria and will oppose multilateral assistance for Syria until Syria ends all support for terrorism, withdraws its armed forces from Lebanon, and halts the development and deployment of weapons of mass destruction and medium- and long-range surface-to-surface ballistic missiles.

(Sec. 5) Sets forth the following penalties against Syria until the President determines and certifies to Congress that Syria meets the requirements of this Act.

Directs the President to prohibit the export to Syria of any item, including the issuance of an export license, on the United States Munitions List or Commerce Control List of dual-use items in the Export Administration Regulations.

Requires the President, at the same time, to impose two or more of the following sanctions: (1) prohibit the export to Syria of U.S. products (other than food and medicine); (2) prohibit U.S. businesses from investing or operating in Syria; (3) restrict Syrian diplomats in Washington, D.C., and at the United Nations in New York City, to travel only within a 25-mile radius of Washington, D.C., or the United Nations headquarters building, respectively; (4) prohibit aircraft of any air carrier owned or controlled by Syria to take off from, land in, or overfly the United States; (5) reduce U.S. diplomatic contacts with Syria (other than those required to protect U.S. interests or carry out the purposes of this Act); and (6) block transactions in any property in which the Government of Syria has any interest, by any person, or with respect to any property, subject to U.S. jurisdiction.

Authorizes the President to waive such sanctions for one or more six-month periods if the President determines that it is in the national security interest of the United States to do so and reports his reasons to Congress.

Syria Accountability Act

1 language

- Article
- Talk
- Read
- Edit
- View history

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Syria Accountability Act	
Long title	Syria Accountability and Lebanese Sovereignty Restoration Act
Acronyms (colloquial)	SALSRA
Enacted by	the 108th United States Congress
Legislative history	
• **Introduced** in the House by Eliot L. Engel (D–NY) on April 12, 2003 • **Signed into law** by President George W. Bush on December 12, 2003	

The **Syria Accountability and Lebanese Sovereignty Restoration Act** (**SALSRA**,Pub. L. 108–175 (text) (PDF)) is a bill of the United States Congress passed into law on December 12, 2003.

The bill's stated purpose is to end what the United States sees as Syrian support for terrorism, to end Syria's presence in Lebanon, which has been in effect since the end of the Lebanese Civil War in 1990, to stop Syria's alleged development of WMDs, to cease Syria's illegal importation of Iraqi oil and to end illegal shipments of military items to anti-US forces in Iraq.

The bill was sponsored by Representative Eliot L. Engel (D) from New York and was introduced April 12, 2003.

2013 Ghouta chemical attack[edit]

In response to the use of chemical weapons against civilians during the 2013 Ghouta chemical attack, president Barack Obama asked Congress to

authorize the use of military force against Syria. An early draft of that authorization cites the Syria Accountability Act, saying:[1]

Whereas in the Syria Accountability and Lebanese Sovereignty Restoration Act of 2003, Congress found that Syria's acquisition of weapons of mass destruction threatens the security of the Middle East and the national security interests of the United States.

Five months after signing the bill, in May 2004, the administration rolled out its sanctions choices. Essentially, the administration agreed to implement the congressionally-mandated prohibition (of export of munitions and dual-use items), as well as (1) the prohibition of exports other than food or medicine to Syria, and (2) the prohibition on Syrian aircraft landing or taking off from the U.S. At the same time, the administration announced that it was imposing, albeit at a later date, Section 311 USA PATRIOT Act sanctions, and International Emergency Economic Powers Act (IEEPA) designations.

In practice, the first three of these measures resulted in some additional scrutiny of an already-constricted U.S.-Syrian trade relationship. Indeed, trade with Syria had previously been subject to controls based on its status as a state sponsor of terrorism. The IEEPA and Patriot Act sanctions were significant pressure tools, however. Regrettably, these measures were held in reserve for up to two years after the implementing executive order was signed.

IEEPA (Executive Order 13338)

When President Bush signed E.O. 13338 implementing IEEPA in May 2004, he declared "a state of emergency" regarding Syria, authorizing the Department of Treasury in consultation with Department of State, to freeze assets within U.S. jurisdiction, belonging to Syrian individuals and government entities. This authority was significant; indeed, it has been described by the 9-11 Commission as some of the "most powerful tools in the U.S. legal arsenal."

The administration first used this authority in July 2005, when it identified Ghazi Kanaan and Rustom Ghazali, then former and current Syrian intelligence chiefs in Lebanon, as special designated nationals under E.O. 13338 for directing "Syria's military and security presence in Lebanon and/or contributing to Syria's support

for terrorism." More recently, in January 2006—following the preliminary findings of the Hariri investigation—the administration designated Assef Shawkat, current director of Syrian military intelligence, for directly furthering the Syria's support for terrorism and interference in the sovereignty of Lebanon.

While IEEPA designations only affect those financial accounts registered in the U.S.—and hence do not directly effect Syrian leaders, most of whom hold their accounts in Europe and the Middle East—the action can be expanded via other executive orders (such as E.O. 13224) to impose sanctions against individuals, organizations and financial institutions that service those designated persons. Hence, the designations potentially have a long reach. This did not escape the Syrians, who were clearly rattled by the designations of these high ranking officials.

Regrettably, although the president has used other authorities (E.O. 13315) to designate a Syrian company and its proprietors (SES International owned by the Shaleesh family) for its dealings with the former Iraqi regime in 2005, to date the administration has implemented IEEPA designations against only three Syrians.

Sanctions against Syria

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Sanctions against Syria are a series of economic sanctions and restrictions imposed by the European Union, the United States, Canada, Australia, Switzerland, the Arab League, as well as other countries, mainly as a result of the repression of civilians in the Syrian civil war from 2011 onwards.

History[edit]

In 1979, the United States put Syria on the list of State Sponsors of Terrorism.[1]

Between March and August 2004, the United States issued new sanctions against the Syrian government. These new sanctions are a follow-up to the policy of combating the Axis of evil conducted by the Bush administration, which "condemns the alleged possession of weapons of mass destruction by the Syrian regime, condemns its grip on Lebanon and its willingness to destabilize Iraq, as well as its support for terrorist organizations such as Hezbollah and Hamas."

The first sanctions were applied on the country after the outbreak of the crisis was on 29 April 2011.,[a] after an executive order was issued by President Barack Obama to block property of those involved in the violations.[2] Canada imposed its first sanctions on May 25, 2011 in the form of a travel ban, asset freeze, ban on the export of certain goods and technology that may be used by the armed forces, and suspension of all bilateral agreements and initiatives.[3]

China, war: feb9 **globaltimes frontpage arcvd** https://perma.cc/NY23-PNCS

Journal, war: feb9 **so thjey just laid it all out through hesh, in my opinion, anyways..**
It was commenting on a blog post published earlier on Wednesday by respected American journalist Seymour Hersh that accused the US military of involvement in the blasts and alleged President Joe Biden green-lighted the operation.

Hersh is a Pulitzer Prize-winning investigative journalist who exposed the 1969 massacre of Vietnamese civilians by American forces. He also broke the story of US troops brutalising Iraqi prisoners at Abu Ghraib after the US invasion in 2003.

Russia, without providing evidence, has repeatedly said NATO nations were behind last September's explosions affecting the Nord Stream 1 and 2 pipelines – multibillion-dollar infrastructure projects that carried Russian gas to Germany under the Baltic Sea. Western officials have denied those accusations.

"The White House must now comment on all these facts," Zakharova said in a post on her Telegram page, where she summarised Hersh's main claims regarding the alleged US involvement.

The White House on Wednesday dismissed Hersh's post. "This is utterly false and complete fiction," said Adrienne

Watson, a spokesperson for the National Security Council. A US Department of State spokesperson said the same.

A Central Intelligence Agency spokesperson echoed the White House denial, calling the report “completely and utterly false”.

Shortly after the plans were devised, President Biden publicly threatened the Nord Stream 2 pipeline, a project the US tried to stop for years through sanctions. “If Russia invades . . . there will be no longer a Nord Stream 2. We will bring an end to it,” President Biden said on February 7, 2022.

A few weeks earlier, Victoria Nuland, undersecretary of state for political affairs, made a similar threat. Hersh’s source said Nuland and Biden’s comments were like “putting an atomic bomb on the ground in Tokyo and telling the Japanese that we are going to detonate it.”

In the wake of the Nord Stream bombings, Western media, and some Western officials blamed the attack on Russia even though the pipelines are mainly owned by Gazprom, Russia’s state natural gas company. But recently, it’s been acknowledged by major American newspapers, *The New York Times* and *The Washington Post*, that there’s no evidence pointing to Moscow’s involvement.

War, energy, russia, journal: feb9 Construction of Nord Stream 2, designed to double the amount of gas Russia could send directly to Germany under the sea, was completed in September 2021. But the pipeline was never put into operation after Berlin shelved certification just days before Moscow sent its troops into Ukraine in February 2022.

War, Russia: feb9 Moscow Considering Windfall Tax to Cover Plunging Oil Revenues

The price of Russia’s flagship Urals oil blend is no longer set by Europe but by Asia, which has become the largest market for the commodity, Rosneft’s chief executive Igor Sechin said at the India Energy Week.

"If Russian oil does not enter the European market, then there is no reference price. Reference prices will be formed where oil volumes actually go," Sechin said, as quoted by Reuters.
"As it's scripted in Ecclesiastes: what is crooked cannot be straightened; what is lacking cannot be counted," he added.

According to Reuters calculations, some 70 percent of the Urals cargoes loaded last month went to India. Russia has become India's largest supplier of crude oil, Sokol was above the threshold which is $10 per barrel above the EU/G7 price cap. Urals, at the same time, averaged $49.48 per barrel in January, according to Finance Ministry data cited by Reuters. This was 42 percent cheaper than its price for January 2022.

War, Erdogan: feb9 Quoting one unnamed source with "direct knowledge of the operational planning", Hersh detailed how "skilled deep-water divers" from the US Navy planted C-4 explosives during a training exercise last June, then detonated the payload remotely three months later.

War, Erdogan: feb9 Turkish Leader Admits 'Shortcomings' in Earthquake Response

War, Russia: feb9 UN Experts Slam Latvia for Clamping Down on Russian-Language Minorities

War, Erdogan: feb9 **histogram of full turkey earthquake history**

War, Erdogan: feb9 **The death toll from the Turkey-Syria earthquakes has passed 19,000. At least 16,546 people have died in Turkey, according to the country's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, while at least 3,162 have been**

killed in Syria. The first UN aid convoy has reached rebel-held northwest Syria from Turkey.

- Hopes of finding survivors are quickly fading and residents of southeastern Turkey and northwestern Syria are criticising what they call slow search and rescue efforts.
- Yet amid the freezing cold, rescue workers are still pulling people out alive from the rubble, as search operations continue for a fourth day.

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"2023-02-
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said death toll wads 11 thousand yesterday
at ....what i think to be at lest, 8 at night, yesterday,
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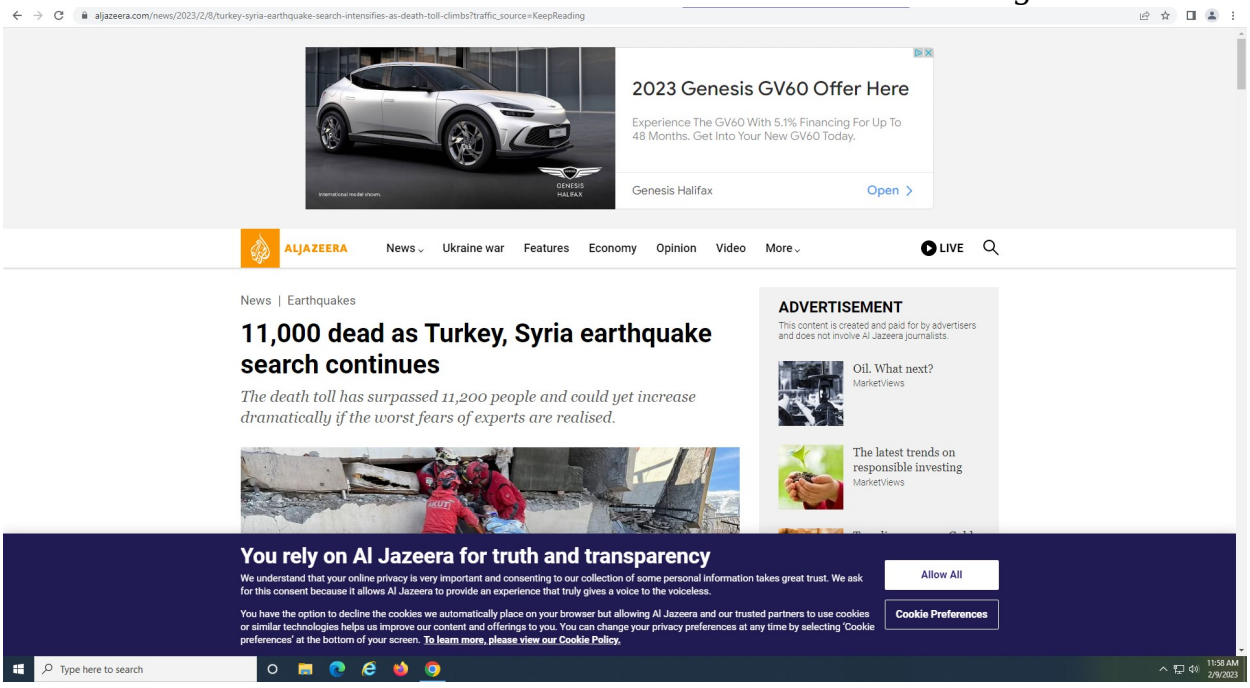
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11,000 dead as Turkey, Syria earthquake search continues
The death toll has surpassed 11,200 people and could yet increase dramatically if the worst fears of experts are realised.
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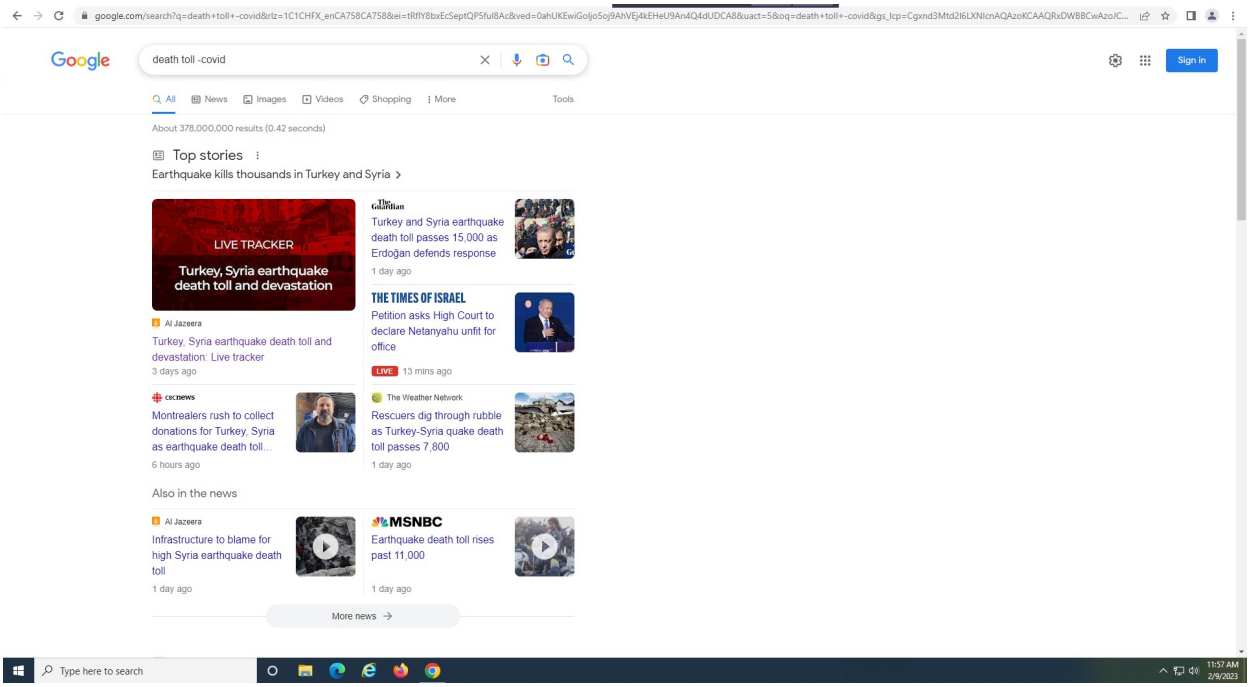


“Around 80 people, bodies at this stage as rescue workers are saying, are believed to be under the rubble of this apartment. They are no longer hearing voices,” she said.

“We just came back from another location where we saw a body being pulled from the rubble. It was a father. His daughter was there, she was sobbing – all the family members were there.

Absolutely heartbreaking to see,” Dekker added.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said 13 million of the country’s 85 million people were affected and declared a state of emergency in 10 provinces.

Erdogan visited Kahramanmaras on Wednesday, and announced plans to help the survivors of the earthquake.

“We will not allow citizens to go homeless,” Erdogan said, adding that victims would be able to stay in hotels. “The state housing authority will do what is necessary.”

In Syria, where a conflict that began in 2011 continues, despair was growing among those still waiting for help.

Aid efforts have been hampered by the continuing war and the isolation of the opposition-held region along the border, which is surrounded by Russia-backed government forces.

Damage to roads and other infrastructure in southern Turkey has prevented aid from reaching northern Syria through the only crossing, known as Bab al-Hawa.

Syria itself is under Western sanctions linked to the war. The government of Bashar al-Assad and its allies in Russia have seized the moment to renew their push for aid to the north to be routed through Damascus.

Countries opposed to al-Assad do not trust the Syrian authorities to effectively deliver aid to opposition areas and worry it would be diverted to benefit people and institutions linked to the government.

At a press conference on Tuesday in Damascus, Syrian Arab Red Crescent head Khaled Hboubati said his group is “ready to deliver relief aid to all regions of Syria, including areas not under government control”.

He called for the European Union to lift its sanctions on Syria in light of the emergency.

Stuck in the cold

Even for survivors, the future seems bleak. Many have taken refuge from relentless aftershocks, cold rain and snow in mosques, schools and even bus shelters, burning debris to stay alive.

In Gaziantep, where the violent aftershocks rumble on, shops are closed, there is no heat because gas lines have been cut to avoid explosions and finding petrol is tough.

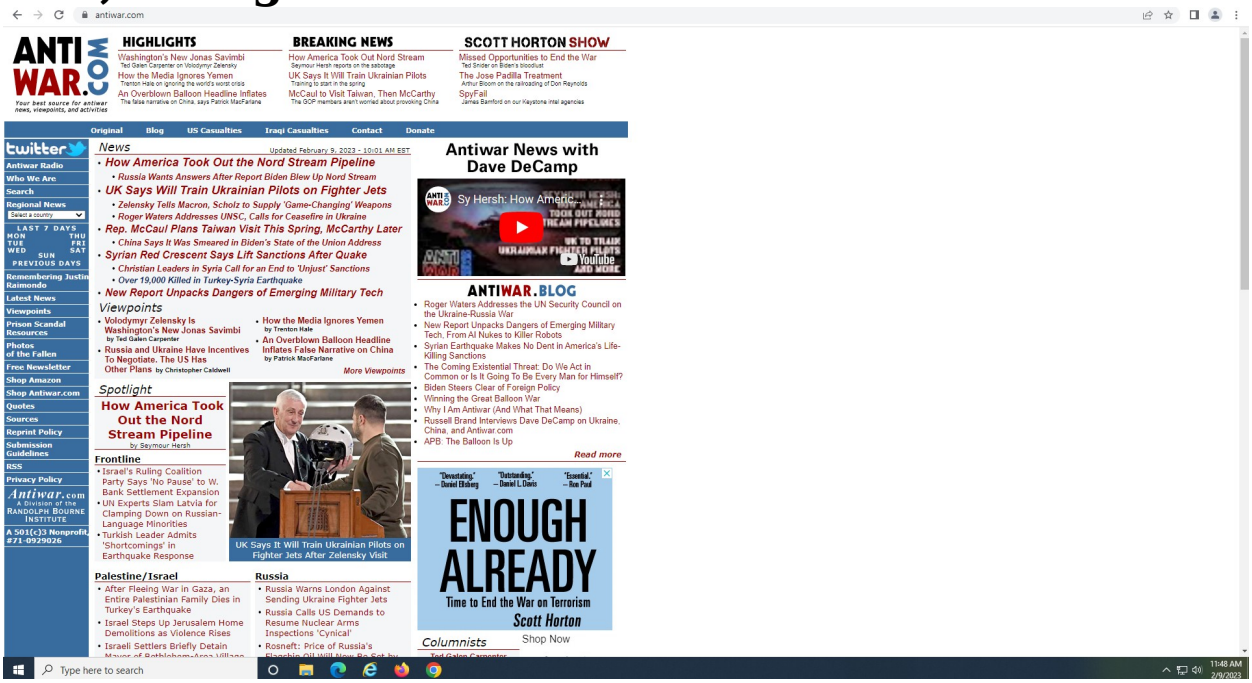
Only bakeries remain open, drawing long queues.

Some of the worst damage in Gaziantep’s eponymous province took place in the most remote districts, where hundreds of buildings have collapsed.

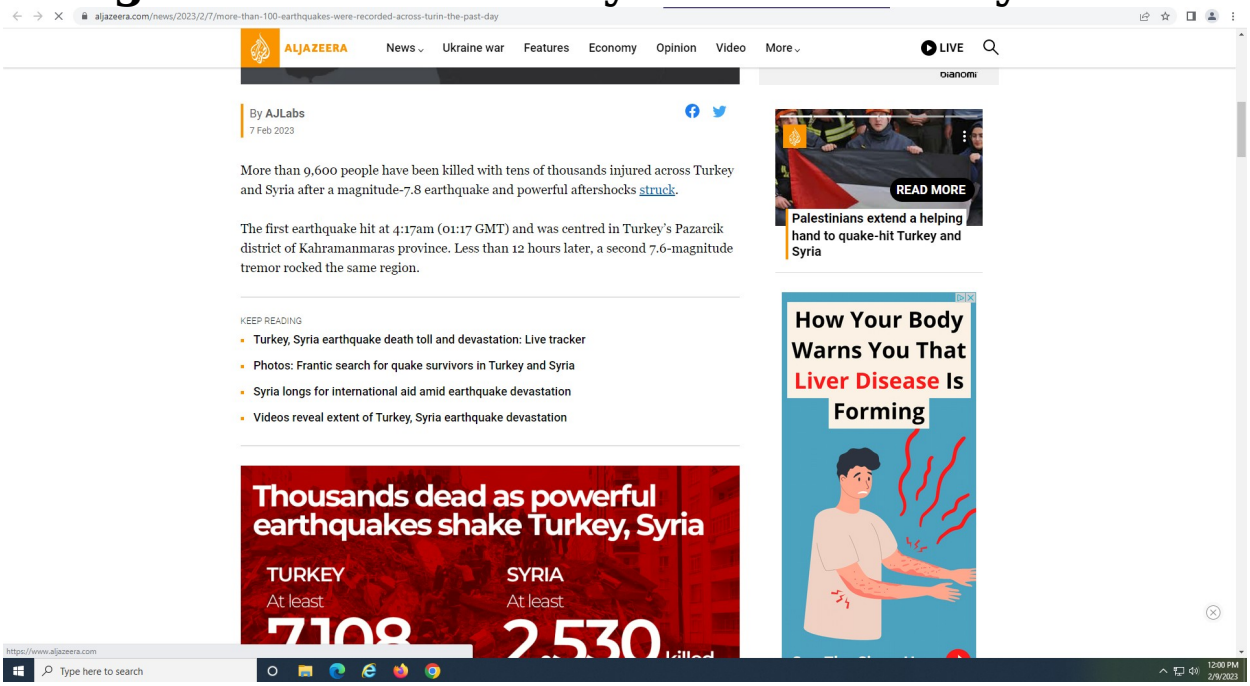
With the airport and many roads outside the city blocked, attempts to flee the city have been frustrated.

Many survivors, who rushed outside without even having time to put on shoes when the earthquake struck, feel abandoned as they also battle cold weather.

War, Erdogan: feb9



Mapping the 100+ aftershocks from the Turkey-Syria earthquake Turkey has been hit by more than 100 magnitude-4+ quakes since a deadly 7.8 earthquake struck the southeastern region along the border with Syria on February 6.


aljazeera.com/news/2023/2/7/more-than-100-earthquakes-were-recorded-across-turin-the-past-day
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By AJLabs
7 Feb 2023
More than 9,600 people have been killed with tens of thousands injured across Turkey and Syria after a magnitude-7.8 earthquake and powerful aftershocks struck.
The first earthquake hit at 4:17am (01:17 GMT) and was centred in Turkey's Pazarcik district of Kahramanmaras province. Less than 12 hours later, a second 7.6-magnitude tremor rocked the same region.
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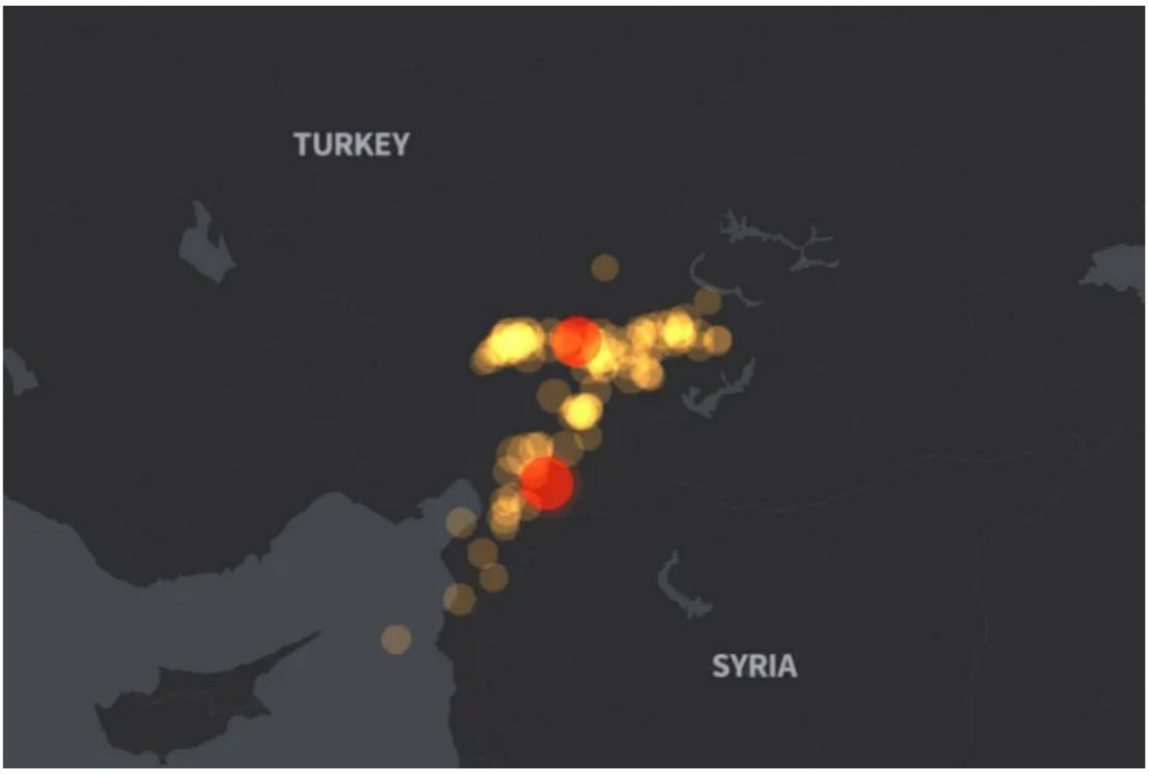
Mapping the 100+ aftershocks from the Turkey-Syria earthquake

Turkey has been hit by more than 100 magnitude-4+ quakes since a deadly 7.8 earthquake struck the southeastern region along the border with Syria on February 6.



By **AJLabs**
Published On 7 Feb 20237 Feb 2023

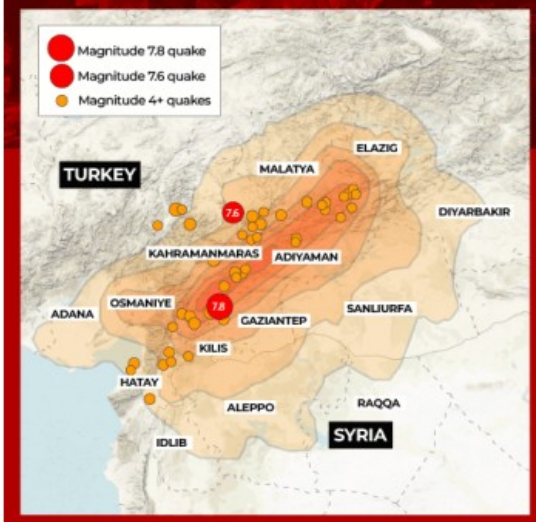
More than 9,600 people have been killed with tens of thousands injured across Turkey and Syria after a magnitude-7.8 earthquake and powerful aftershocks struck.

The first earthquake hit at 4:17am (01:17 GMT) and was centred in Turkey's Pazarcik district of Kahramanmaras province. Less than 12 hours later, a second 7.6-magnitude tremor rocked the same region.

Thousands dead as powerful earthquakes shake Turkey, Syria

TURKEY
At least
7,108 killed

SYRIA
At least
2,530 killed



Authorities say the death toll is likely to rise.

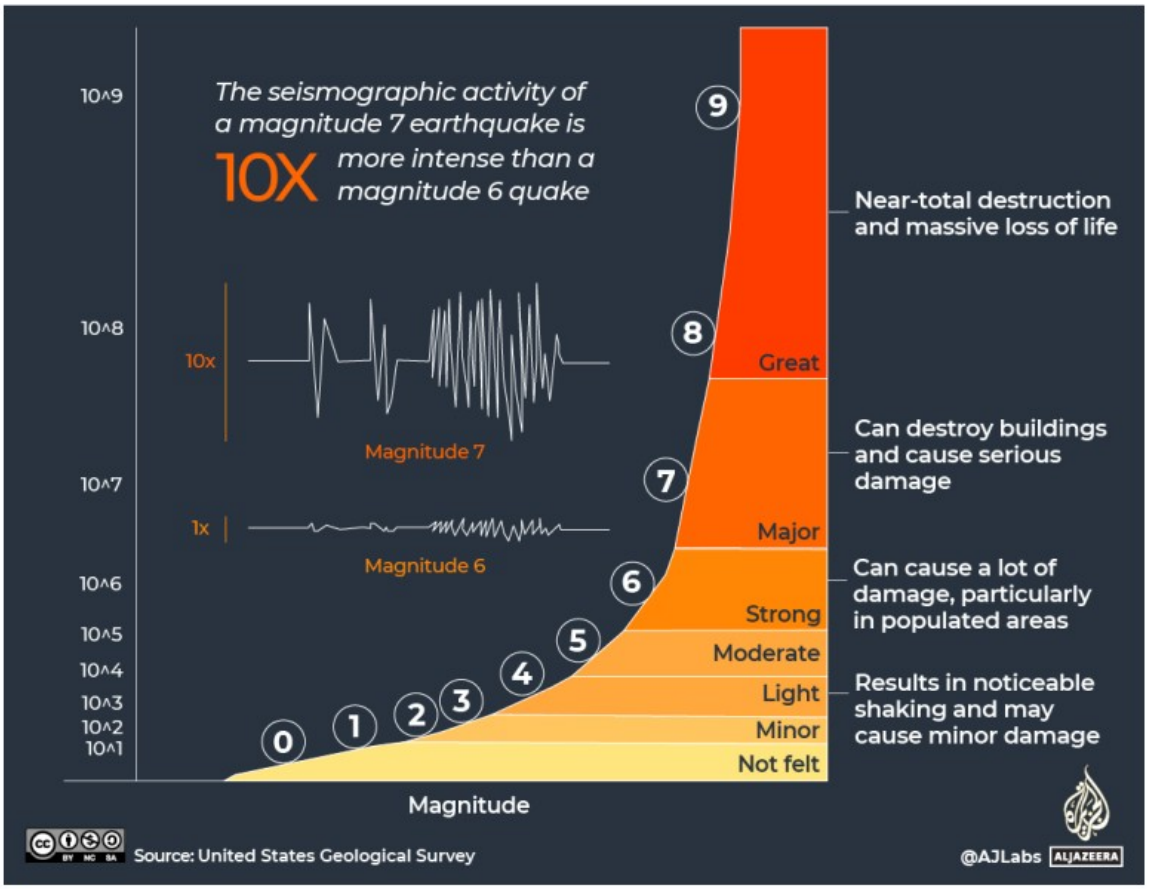
Sources: Turkish government, Syrian government, Syrian opposition
February 8, 2023 | 08:45 GMT

@AJLabs ALJAZEERA

EARTHQUAKE

How are earthquakes measured?

The strength of an earthquake is measured on the Richter scale and recorded on a seismograph. Magnitudes are based on a logarithmic scale, which means every whole-number increase on the scale is actually a tenfold increase in magnitude.



(Al Jazeera)

Since February 6, at least 81 magnitude-4 quakes, 20 magnitude-5 quakes, three magnitude-6 quakes, and two magnitude-7 quakes have been recorded in southeast Turkey.

The animated map below shows a time-lapse of all these quakes:

Turkey has been hit by more than 100 aftershocks of magnitude 4 and greater since a deadly 7.8 quake struck on February 6.

War, Russia, government: feb9 Macron Says Russia Cannot Win Against Ukraine

After a surprise UK visit, Ukraine's President Zelensky went to Paris immediately afterward in a whirlwind European tour to meet with Western leaders. In Paris he held talks with French President Emmanuel Macron and German Chancellor Olaf Scholz

Macron asserted during the visit that **Russia cannot win the war against Ukraine**. "Ukraine can count on France, its European partners and allies to win the war. Russia cannot and must not win," Macron said before a working dinner among the three leaders at the Elysee Palace.

Stats, government, markets: feb **giant commodity trader has recorded a $577 million impairment**

as a result of the fraud, and fired the group's head of nickel and cobalt trading, Socrates Economou

Having been at the epicenter of a massive short-squeeze that almost shuttered the London Metal Exchange (and remains mired in litigation), Bloomberg reports that the nickel market has been rocked once again as one of the world's largest commodity traders, **Trafigura Group, is facing more than half a billion dollars in losses after discovering metal cargoes it bought didn't contain the metal they were supposed to.**

giant commodity trader has **recorded a $577 million impairment as a result of the fraud, and fired the group's head of nickel and cobalt trading,** Socrates Economou (though the company made it clear that this was a systematic fraud committed against it by an outsiude party, and does not believe that anyone at the company was complicit in the fraud.).

Trafigura said in a statement that it has started legal action against Indian businessman Prateek Gupta and several companies connected to him including TMT Metals and subsidiaries of UD Trading Group.

*"**Since late December 2022, a small proportion of the containers purchased** from these companies have been inspected as they reached their destination, and were **found not to contain nickel**," Trafigura said in the statement.*

"The majority of the shipments remain in transit awaiting further inspection."

This is yet **another black mark for the metals-trading industry**, which in recent years has been beset by tales of **fake warehouse receipts**, duplicate shipping documents and **containers filled with painted rocks**.

Finally, Bloomberg reports that **nickel is a popular metal with fraudsters.** Its high value means that a single container full can be worth $500,000, yet it is traded in relatively large volumes and without the strict security that accompanies shipments of precious metals like gold.

ECONOMY

The Ten Wealthiest Greeks in Greece

March 10, 2020
TNH Staff

Pages from 50 WEALTHIEST 2020

10. STASINOPOULOS FAMILY

$600 MILLION (TNHE)

MANUFACTURING

Viohalco (Viomichania Chalkou kai Alouminiou Company), one of the world's biggest metals mining and trading businesses, is run by brothers Nikolaos and Evangelos Stasinopoulos. Originally founded in 1937 as Hellenic Copper Industry, Viohalco engages in the metal processing of aluminum, copper, and steel. Its subsidiaries focus on technological advancement and R&D and specialize in the manufacture of cables and pipes product solutions.

The company employs more than 8,000 people worldwide and has seen its revenues rise in recent years. A few years ago, Viohalco decided to shift its

headquarters and stock market list away from Athens to Brussels over concerns about the local economy.

Viohalco has heavily invested in Romania, Bulgaria, and the UK and achieved a major deal in steel manufacturing with a US-based company.

9. CANELLOPOULOS & PAPALEXOPOULOS FAMILIES
$800 MILLION (TNHE)
MANUFACTURING

The Canellopoulos and Papalexopoulos families have owned the Titan Cement Company, an international cement and building materials producer, since 1902. Together, they have run the company for almost 120 years and own 40% of the company. Titan has production facilities in 10 countries and a presence in more than 15 countries. With an annual capacity of 27 million metric tons of cement and cementitious materials, it employs about 5,500 people worldwide. The company’s activities include the production, transportation, and distribution of cement, concrete, aggregates, fly ash, mortars and other building materials.

Dimitrios Papalexopoulos is executive director of the Group Executive Committee of Titan. Born in Athens, Greece, Papalexopoulos started his career as a business consultant for McKinsey & Company Inc. in the United States and Germany. He then joined Titan in 1989. He is Vice Chairman of the Board of the Hellenic Federation of Enterprises (SEV), and Vice-Chairman of the European Round Table for Industry (ERT), while he is a member of the Board of the Foundation for Economic and Industrial Research (IOBE) and the Hellenic Foundation for European and Foreign Policy (ELIAMEP). He holds a

MSc in Electrical Engineering from the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology (ETHZ-1985) and an MBA from Harvard Business School (1987).

Also born in Athens, Greece, Takis Canellopoulos started his career as financial analyst in AIG and later in the Financing Division of EFG Eurobank. He was Investor Relations Director of the Titan Group from 2001 until May 2016. Before that (1995–2001) he had worked in various positions in the Finance Department of the Group.

Currently, he is a member of the Board of Directors of Canellopoulos Adamantiadis S.A. and he is a Founding Partner of 3K Investment Partners. He is also a member of the Board of Directors of the Union of Listed Companies (ENEISET). He studied Economics (BA) at Brown University and Business Administration (MBA) at New York University/Stern School of Business.

True to form, members of both families are linked to a host of other businesses in Greece through cross-holdings and directorships.

8. THEODORE & GIANNA ANGELOPOULOS
$819 MILLION (Forbes)
STEEL/SHIPPING
Married, 3 children

Theodore Angelopoulos, is a Greek shipping and steel magnate. He lived in Switzerland for many years where he received his BSc in Business Administration from Zurich University.

Theodore’s family developed the steel industry in Greece and began dealing in the dry cargo sector of the shipping industry in the early 1950s. Angelopoulos evolved to become a shipping magnate, acquiring the Dutch shipbuilding company Oceanco and transforming it as a leading shipbuilder of custom-built luxury mega-yachts. He also has invested heavily in real estate and private equities, as well as other financial entities worldwide.

In 1996, Angelopoulos established Metrostar Management in Athens, and entered the oil tanker market in the same year, with his company going on to become one of the world’s leading oil tanker operators.

Gianna Angelopoulos-Daskalaki is a Greek businesswoman. She is best known as being at the helm of organizing the 2004 Olympics in Athens. She was named one of the 50 most powerful women by Forbes.

Born to a middle-class family in Crete, she distinguished herself academically (she studied law at the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki) and politically (she was appointed Ambassador at Large by the Greek government).

Gianna has served at Harvard University, as vice-chairman of the Dean’s Council of Harvard’s Kennedy School of Government since 1994, and now also serves as a member of the Advisory Board of the Center for Business and Government. In 2011, she established the Angelopoulos Global Public Leaders Program at the HKS to bring distinguished leaders to Harvard in order to interact with students, share lessons learned, and reflect upon the next phase of their public service.

In October 2019, she established the Gianna Angelopoulos Programme for Science Technology and Innovation (GAPSTI) at Cambridge University, which

nurtures exceptionally talented early-career scientists, from postgraduate study and research to the successful commercialization of their ideas, through a structured training and research program enhanced by industrial collaboration and entrepreneurial activities.

In 2019, Greece’s Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis, appointed her as President of the Greece 2021 committee for the celebrations of the bicentennial anniversary of the commencement of the Greek Revolution in 1821.

Gianna is the founder and sponsor of the Angelopoulos CGIU Fellowship Program, through which 100 young Greek entrepreneurs have benefited, and is also a leading philanthropist for projects in Greece and around the globe.

7. SOCRATES KOKKALIS
$1.2 BILLION (BUSINESS INSIDER)
TELECOMMUNICATIONS/SPORTS

Socrates Kokkalis is a Greek entrepreneur and businessman. His father, Petros Kokkalis, was a communist politician and Greek Resistance member, living in exile in East Germany after the end of the Greek Civil War.

Kokkalis is the founder and majority shareholder of Intracom Holdings, one of the largest multinational technology groups in Southern Europe. He is also the chairman, majority shareholder and chief executive officer of Intralot, a gaming technology supplier and licensed lottery operator. He is also chairman at Vodafone-Panafon Hellenic Telecommunications Co. SA. For many years Kokkalis was the president and major shareholder of Olympiacos

FC, Greece’s leading football club. His tenure saw Piraeus club conquer 12 top division titles, five Greek Cups, and one Greek Super Cup.

In 1997 Kokkalis became a John Harvard Fellow after establishing the Kokkalis Program at Harvard University’s Kennedy School of Government. He also established and presides over the Kokkalis Foundation, a non-profit organization that promotes “education and training, culture and social welfare, medical research and information technology, and athletics,” both in Greece and abroad.

A fluent speaker of English, German and Russian, Kokkalis also speaks Romanian, Italian, Bulgarian and conversational Serbian and French.

Sokratis S. Kokkalis Jr., the son of Kokkalis, died unexpectedly during a business trip to Cleveland, OH from a drug overdose at the young age of 34. He was found dead in his hotel room in July 2018 after having ingested cocaine laced with heroin and fentanyl. The Ohio drug dealer who sold the young Kokkalis the drugs was sentenced in February of 2020 to 15 years in federal prison.

War, Erdogan, middle east, energy, stats: feb9

turkey/syria, key:

Ankara and the Syrian regime have engaged in talks mediated by Russia in recent months as part of efforts to mend ties, which were cut at the start of the Syrian conflict in 2011.

Turkish officials have previously said that they expect Ankara to withdraw from northern Syria once an acceptable political settlement is reached with the regime in Damascus.

Russia's foreign ministry on Sunday announced an upcoming meeting between Russian, Turkish and Syrian military delegations without giving a specific date. Sources close to the Syrian regime said the meeting would take place sometime around mid-February.

Moscow – which has been mediating the talks – has backed Bashar al-Assad's regime since 2015.

Turkey has provided support and a base for political opponents of Assad's regime, while training and fighting alongside armed rebels against his troops.

Prospects and pitfalls of a Turkish withdrawal from northern Syria

Syria has conditioned the withdrawal of the Turkish military from its territory as a prerequisite for any normalisation in relations between the two countries.

However, as analysts note, a full Turkish withdrawal in the near future is unlikely for a number of reasons, and an eventual withdrawal will likely prove immensely complicated.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan is eager to renormalise relations with his Syrian counterpart Bashar al-Assad for the first time since 2011.

Turkey severed ties that year when Assad violently crushed a popular revolt against his rule, sparking a

violent civil war that has lasted over a decade and left an estimated 500,000 people dead in its wake.

> "Syria has conditioned the withdrawal of the Turkish military from its territory as a prerequisite for any normalisation in relations between the two countries"

Turkey took in millions of Syrian refugees fleeing that vicious conflict. In recent years, however, hostility towards this large refugee population inside Turkey has grown as the economic situation worsened.

Erdogan, who is running for re-election this year, hopes that normalising ties with Assad could facilitate the resettlement of as many as three million refugees in northern Syria.

But Damascus says Ankara must withdraw all its military forces from Syria first.

In a series of military operations launched in 2016-19, Turkey invaded and occupied three separate parts of northern Syria with the help of Syrian opposition fighters it trained and used as proxies.

Most of these areas were previously controlled by the Syrian Kurdish People's Protection Units (YPG), an offshoot of the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) Turkey has fought for decades.

Ankara also has troops in Syria's north-western Idlib province, deployed under the tripartite Astana agreement with Iran and Russia.

Large swathes of that province remain outside of Assad's control and are ruled over by the powerful Hayat Tahrir al-Sham (HTS) Islamist group.

It's also home to millions of displaced, who could flee over the border into Turkey if there is another ferocious Russian-backed Syrian offensive.

There is also the question of what happens to the thousands of armed proxy militiamen Turkey uses in these areas after an eventual withdrawal.

"A partial Turkish drawdown of forces is possible, but a full withdrawal is less likely," Emily Hawthorne, a senior Middle East and North Africa analyst at the risk intelligence company RANE, told *The New Arab*.

"Turkey wants to retain a buffer zone along the border," she said. "Syria and Turkey are negotiating over what must happen in order for their ties to normalise, so a limited drawdown would go far toward convincing Syria of Turkey's willingness to negotiate."

Hawthorne anticipates that even a partial Turkish withdrawal from Idlib would increase the prospect of Syrian and Russian military offensives in the area, leaving Syrian opposition fighters no choice other than to reconcile with Assad or fight.

Even though Turkey has trained many of these fighters and used them in past operations, it may not be willing to give them asylum after a withdrawal.

"Because of the Turkish public's low appetite for accepting more refugees, as well as Ankara's fear of welcoming any jihadist terrorists onto its soil, Turkey is not likely to accept many asylum seekers from the group," Hawthorne said. "However, if conflict erupts in Idlib province, Turkey could accept families of militants in the province."

> "Erdogan, who is running for re-election this year, hopes that normalising ties with Assad could facilitate the resettlement of as many as three million refugees in northern Syria"

She concluded by predicting that a gradual negotiated reorganisation of northern Syria "is more likely than a rapid Turkish withdrawal that suddenly opens up Idlib to Russian and Syrian military overtures".

Ankara and Damascus "will try to begin with step-by-step diplomacy to test the waters and each other's ability and willingness to deliver," Professor Joshua Landis, director of the Centre of Middle East Studies and the Farzaneh Family Center for Iranian and Persian Gulf Studies at the University of Oklahoma, predicts.

"The Sunni Arab Islamists, such at HTS, will be very difficult for the regime to reconcile with or to integrate into its own forces, as has been done with some of the militias of the Deraa region, for example," Landis told *The New Arab*.

"The regime will try to offer reconciliation to those militiamen who come forward, as it has done elsewhere in Syria," he said. "Many of the most determined fighters, who will fear for their lives, even were they to throw

themselves on the mercy of the Syrian state, will ask for asylum in Turkey and elsewhere."

Landis also anticipates that Turkey will likely ask other countries that previously supported and paid for the militiamen in Syria to take in the leaders and members who cannot reconcile with the Syrian government. That would include the United States, which "did so much to legitimise and support the rebellion against Assad", Landis notes.

"I imagine that Western countries will refuse to accept their fair share of the 'freedom fighters'," he said. "The CIA may turn to the Biden administration to take some of the Free Syrian Army fighters that it trained and armed, but the United States is unlikely to accept many, if any at all. Turkey may predicate any deal on Western countries accepting their fair share."

In a worst-case scenario, Turkey may ultimately be forced to abandon fighters who refuse any reconciliation with Assad, "particularly if the 'Friends of Syria' countries that did so much to support the insurgency set a bad example by refusing to take any in themselves," Landis said.

"We shouldn't forget that it was President Obama who pressured Turkey to lead in supporting the Syria opposition, claiming that the United States would 'lead from behind'," he added.

Northeastern Syria is also complicated. Turkey captured a sizable portion of border territory east of the Euphrates River from the YPG in October 2019. Large parts of that region, known among the Kurds as Rojava, remain under

the YPG's control. Turkey has repeatedly threatened to launch additional operations against the YPG.

The YPG is the main component of the larger Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) fighting force, which is the main ally of the United States against the Islamic State (IS) in Syria. Turkey maintains that the group is inextricably tied to the PKK and constitutes a security threat.

The US maintains there is a distinction between the two groups, an issue the two countries have been at irrevocable loggerheads over since 2014.

"Turkey understands that, given its failure to topple the Assad regime, it must reconcile with Assad," Landis said. "Turkey must get the Syrian Arab Army and Syrian state institutions to protect Turkey's southern border from incursions by the YPG and pro-PKK Kurdish fighters."

> "Turkey will unlikely withdraw its forces from Syria so long as the YPG presence remains and so long as the US 'underwrites' the northeastern statelet"

He pointed out that Ankara and Damascus want to see the United States withdraw its small troop presence in northeast Syria.

"Erdogan's biggest concern is that the United States is not only arming the YPG but also legitimising it," Landis said. "This undermines Turkish security and its effort to delegitimise Kurdish parties that seek Kurdish self-determination or a wide measure of autonomy. Assad also fears Rojava."

Kyle Orton, an independent Middle East analyst, also doubts that Turkey will withdraw its forces from Syria so

long as the YPG presence remains and so long as the US "underwrites" the northeastern statelet.

"If the US was to withdraw from Syria, the PKK polity would collapse and the PKK would be reabsorbed by the Assad/Iran regime system, which would eliminate the main danger as Turkey sees it," he told *The New Arab*. "Ankara dealt with the PKK when it was a Soviet and Damascus proxy during the worst years of the war inside Turkey; it can deal with that situation again," he said.

"How quickly Turkey would withdraw from Syria following a US exit and the collapse of the PKK statelet is obviously very uncertain, but the contours of how it would be done can be guessed," he added.

War, Erdogan: feb9 **Earthquakes Cause Severe Damage To Turkey's Energy Infrastructure, Feb 07, 2023, 3:30 AM CST**

Turkey's energy infrastructure has suffered severe damage from the two earthquakes that shook Turkey and neighbor Syria yesterday, killing more than 3,000 people, according to the country's government.

The first 7.7-magnitude quake damaged a big port on the Mediterranean, Turkey's Energy and Natural Resources Minister Fatih Donmez said, as quoted by news agencies, and later in the day, a fire broke out at the same port.
Operations at the Ceyhan oil terminal were halted as a result of the quake but Turkey's oil pipelines—Kirkuk-Ceyhan and Balku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan—were undamaged.
Despite the fact that the oil pipelines are intact, there could be delays to operations at the Ceyhan oil terminal, the endpoint of the Kirkuk-Ceyhan pipeline, a major export line from Kirkuk in Iraq.

What's more, the Kurdistan Regional Government said it had suspended flows along the Kirkuk-Ceyhan pipeline in the wake of the quake.

"Due to the earthquake that hit Türkiye and Syria, and to ensure the safety of oil exports and prevent any undesirable incidents, oil exports through the pipeline connecting the Kurdistan region to Türkiye have been suspended," the KRG said.

Kurdistan normally transits some 450,000 barrels of crude daily through Turkey via the Kirkuk-Ceyhan pipeline. An official from the Kurdistan government said on Twitter that the flow of oil will only resume after careful inspection of the pipeline to make sure it has sustained no damage.

Sanctions, war, Erdogan: feb9 **China, India, Turkiye, and several other countries are not adhering to the G7 price formula, and despite the price cap on Russia’s seaborne oil supply, its oil exports did not see any meaningful cut, despite fierce western efforts.**

China, India, Turkiye, and several other countries are not adhering to the G7 price formula, and despite the price cap on Russia’s seaborne oil supply, its oil exports did not see any meaningful cut, despite fierce western efforts.

In 2021, around 3 million barrels per day (mb/d), or 45 percent of Russian crude oil exports were imported by the EU. The price cap may reduce that amount to a little more than 0.25 mb/d, but Russian oil will still flow into the EU. This is largely because Germany and Poland have agreed to stop importing oil through the northern Druzhba pipeline by 2023, while Bulgaria has been permitted to keep importing oil from Russia by sea.

The immediate impact of this ban is a decrease in demand for Russian oil and, consequently, its relative price. But oil markets are interdependent and will themselves independently test the global appeal for Russian fuel. When

the EU appealed to world markets to replace their purchases from Russia, new and alternative purchasers for Russian barrels came forward instead. The global oil trade is very likely to simply re-equilibrate itself with perfect market corrections.

As the EU increasingly spurned Russian oil, Russia found new consumers for approximately 1 mb/d of displaced crude oil, albeit with price discounts relative to the global market. Russia is now on the lookout for clients to take an additional 0.8 mb/d of exports through western ports.

Media reports claim that Eastern Siberia Pacific Ocean (ESPO) crude oil prices exceeded the cap in Asia. The reports say that China's teapot refiners had placed orders at $67.11 per barrel with Russia in December last year. To bypass the price limit, Russia is using its own tankers and insurance coverage.

Pakistan's oil imports from Iran

Pakistan has a hard time securing enough energy supplies, and the Iranian oil in its backyard is more affordable than its Russian counterpart. However, US and EU sanctions make it difficult for Islamabad to engage in official trade with Tehran.

Tehran is now seeking to establish a land route trading system with Islamabad, similar to the one Pakistan has enjoyed with Afghanistan through the Sistan-Balochistan province's 1,000-kilometer common border, to curb the illegal trade in Iranian oil and consumer goods.

The informal border trade with Pakistan, according to Iranian officials, has risen to over $5 billion per annum and should ideally be moved into legal channels to improve state-to-state bilateral trade relations. Tehran has also suggested bartering trade in local currency with Pakistan to

transfer the $5 billion worth of illegal commerce between the two countries at the Sistan border into the formal, official trade sector.

Iran's Consul General in Karachi, Hassan Nourian, stated during a visit to the Karachi Chamber of Commerce and Industry in December last year that if Pakistani authorities allowed legal trade across the Sistan border, trade volumes between the two countries could surpass $5 billion – up from the current $1.5 billion that flows within legal channels.

Nourian said this would address urgent, mutual, national needs, whereby Iran could transport natural gas, crude oil, and petrochemicals to Pakistan in exchange for Pakistani agricultural products.

Opposition to regulated trade with Iran

Majyd Aziz, president of the UN Global Compact and a former president of the Karachi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI), told *The Cradle* that various Pakistani "interest groups" do not want Islamabad to regularize trade with Iran.

> "Countries, organizations, and individuals with vested interests in the region oppose the development of bilateral trade between neighboring nations. These parties prevented the government from establishing seven border markets in Iran and five in Afghanistan," he said, noting that the Saudi factor has also contributed to the deterioration of trade relations with Iran.

Despite repeated pledges, Aziz lamented, the Pakistani Ministry of Commerce has yet to execute the barter trade modalities necessary to restart regular trade with Iran. Similarly, he stated that there were no direct banking connections between the two nations to facilitate trade.

“By not directing the unlawful border trade to the legitimate sector, we deprived ourselves of a low-cost oil supply from Iran, which India, China, and Afghanistan already enjoy,” he explained.

Stats, tech, government, sanctions: feb9 **China's digital economy accounts for 39.8 per cent of gross domestic product**

despite having the world's strongest industrial manufacturing capability, and they are easy prey for Washington in its strategy of tech containment.

Without mastery of the fiendishly complex chips that power everything from cars to smartphones, President Xi Jinping's hopes of transforming China into the pre-eminent global digital power, while surpassing the US to become the No 1 economy in the world, could fall apart.

"Chips are the foundation of the modern economy," said Jun Zhang, an associate professor of economic geography at the University of Toronto. "There's a rough estimate that a yuan worth of chips can support 10 yuan worth of electrical capacity and generate 100 yuan's economic output."

Who will take on China's biggest economic challenges?

China sees the digital economy, which accounts for 39.8 per cent of its GDP, as the country's major engine of growth. But to reach its potential, the country needs semiconductor chips.

"Virtually every hardware company in China must deal with the fallout from the sweeping restrictions announced by the US," said Dan Wang, an analyst with Gavekal Dragonomics.

"These sanctions will hobble China's semiconductor advances," he wrote in a report, Eight questions for China's Tech Sector in 2023, published last month.

Censorship, war: feb9 **Ukraine Withdraws 19 Million Russian, Soviet-Era Books From Libraries**

Energy, sanctions: feb9 **full update on russian oil embargo 2 months after it took effect on dec5, learned a lot**

Loadings of Russia's flagship Urals crude using ship-to-ship (STS) transfers in the Mediterranean surged eight times in January from December to a record in the first full month in which the EU banned seaborne imports of Russian oil.

STS loadings, used by traders to move the crude from smaller tankers onto larger ones to make the journey to Asia profitable, have soared since the EU ban came into effect on December 5, according to data from Refinitiv Eikon cited by Reuters on Tuesday.
The key STS loading points in the Mediterranean are near Kalamata in Greek waters and near the Spanish port of Ceuta in the Strait of Gibraltar.

STS loadings in the Mediterranean hit an all-time high of 1.7 million tons in January, an eightfold surge compared to December, per Refinitiv Eikon data and Reuters calculations.

Since Urals is no longer being imported into the EU, cargoes are being diverted to Asia, mostly to India, China, and Singapore.

While the Urals crude is now finding a home outside Europe, the low price of Russia's flagship grade is reducing Russian revenues from oil, due to the steep discount at which Urals trades relative to Brent Crude.
Russia's budget revenues from oil and gas plunged in January by 46% compared to the same month last year. Russian budget revenues from energy sales – including taxes and customs revenues – plummeted last month to the lowest level since August 2020.

In January 2023, the price of Urals grade averaged 42% lower than in the same month of 2022, as its discount to Brent Crude grew wider following the EU embargo and the G7 price cap, which came into effect on December 5. The average price of Urals in January, at $49.48 per barrel, was 1.7 times lower than in January 2022, when it averaged $85.64 per barrel, Russia's Finance Ministry said last week.
Russia is considering taxing its oil firms based on the price of Brent – instead of Urals – to limit the fallout on the Russian budget revenues due to the widening discount of Urals to Brent, Russian daily Kommersant reported last week, quoting sources.

Stats, middle east, war: feb9 **firsthand story shows the struggles of the arab in the new american century: "The corpses have swollen, it's the third day, the bodies are on the street, no one has removed them," she said. "If they don't bury them here, we want to take them to Iraq."**

ERBIL, Iraq (Reuters) - Six years ago, Rehab Talal and her family fled the Islamic State-held city of Mosul in northern Iraq seeking shelter in Turkey, but seven members of her family died, including a week-old baby, when her parents' house collapsed in the earthquake.

Talal said seven of her 13-member family had died. The bodies of her father, two brothers and four nieces and nephews remained on the ground in front of the collapsed building.

"The corpses have swollen, it's the third day, the bodies are on the street, no one has removed them," she said. "If they don't bury them here, we want to take them to Iraq."

Energy, middle east, stats, Erdogan: feb9 **Around 450,000 barrels of oil are exported to Turkey from the Kurdistan Region and Kirkuk through the Kirkuk-Ceyhan pipeline every day.**

Iraq’s Prime Minister Mohammed Shia’ al-Sudan on Tuesday announced that the country will be allocating three billion dinars to purchase humanitarian aid and delivering them to the victims in both countries.

War: feb9 **last years figures: As of February 2022, over 370,000 people have lost their lives thanks to the war thanks to lack of food, medical necessities, and bombings."**

Between 2015 and 2019, the media only covered about ninety-two minutes of the ongoing war. Based on the atrocities, this is shockingly low. It is especially low when the media chose to cover the false Russian election meddling. MSNBC even went an entire year without mentioning the conflict.

War: Added feb9th, feb7: “As was the case during World Wars I and II, the major powers are rushing ahead with the weaponization of advanced technologies before they have fully considered—let alone attempted to mitigate—the consequences of doing so, including the risk of significant civilian casualties and the accidental or inadvertent escalation of conflict,” writes Michael Klare, a senior visiting fellow and board member at the Arms Control Association.," New Report Examines Effects of Emerging Military Technologies on Strategic Stability

War, Erdogan: feb Over 15,000 Killed in Turkey-Syria Earthquake (was 12 000 when i last looked last night)

War: feb9 america admits to blowing up nordstream, full atw page saved

News

Updated February 9, 2023 - 1:10 AM EST

How America Took Out the Nord Stream Pipeline

- Russia Wants Answers After Report Biden Blew Up Nord Stream

UK Says Will Train Ukrainian Pilots on Fighter Jets

- Zelensky Tells Macron, Scholz to Supply 'Game-Changing' Weapons
- Roger Waters Addresses UNSC, Calls for Ceasefire in Ukraine

Rep. McCaul Plans Taiwan Visit This Spring, McCarthy Later

- China Says It Was Smeared in Biden's State of the Union Address

Syrian Red Crescent Says Lift Sanctions After Quake

- Christian Leaders in Syria Call for an End to 'Unjust' Sanctions
- Over 15,000 Killed in Turkey-Syria Earthquake

New Report Unpacks Dangers of Emerging Military Tech

Viewpoints

Volodymyr Zelensky Is Washington's New Jonas Savimbi by Ted Galen Carpenter

Russia and Ukraine Have Incentives To Negotiate. The US Has Other Plans by Christopher Caldwell

How the Media Ignores Yemen by Trenton Hale

An Overblown Balloon Headline Inflates False Narrative on China by Patrick MacFarlane

More Viewpoints

Spotlight

How America Took Out the Nord Stream Pipeline

by Seymour Hersh

Frontline

Israel's Ruling Coalition

Palestine/Israel

- After Fleeing War in Gaza, an Entire Palestinian Family Dies in Turkey's Earthquake
- Israel Steps Up Jerusalem Home Demolitions as Violence Rises
- Israeli Settlers Briefly Detain Mayor of Bethlehem-Area Village
- Barcelona Freezes Ties With Israel
- Two Palestinians Injured in Israeli Military Raid Near Nablus
- Grief-Stricken Palestinians Recount Deadly Israeli Raids
- Family of Druze Israeli Teen Snatched in Jenin File ICC Complaint Against Palestinian Authority

Turkey

- Turkey Restricted Twitter Across Country, Complicating Rescue Efforts
- Kurdistan Region Resumes Oil Exports to Turkey
- Syrian Refugees Volunteer With Rescue Efforts in Turkey
- We Fled War to Die in an Earthquake, Says Iraqi Woman Mourning Family in Turkey

Syria

- Syria Requests EU Support for the First Time After Earthquake
- UN Aid Deliveries to Syria From Turkey Could Resume Thursday

Middle East

- Oman Signs Four-Year LNG Deal With Chinese Firm
- Egypt Pledges to Sell Stakes in 32 State Firms Over Next Year
- Bahrani, Qatari FMs Meet in Saudi Arabia to Establish Bilateral Talks
- Lebanese Banks Close Doors to Customers to Protest Ruling

Africa

- MSF Suspends Operations in Northwest Burkina Faso After Gunmen Kill Two Staff
- Two Police Officers, Gendarme

Russia

- Russia Warns London Against Sending Ukraine Fighter Jets
- Russia Calls US Demands to Resume Nuclear Arms Inspections 'Cynical'
- Rosneft: Price of Russia's Flagship Oil Will Now Be Set by Asia
- Russia Sanctions 77 Americans in Tit-For-Tat Move
- Moscow Considering Windfall Tax to Cover Plunging Oil Revenues
- Russia Raps US Over Lack of UN Visas for Its Diplomats, Seeks Arbitration

United Kingdom

- UK Sanctions More Russian Entities and Individuals
- UK Counter-Extremism Program Review: Four Years of Delays, Legal Challenges, Boycotts, Leaks
- High Court Rules UK-Based Bahrain Activists' Case Against Kingdom Can Proceed
- Britain and the EU Remain in Talks Over Northern Ireland Trade Rules

Europe

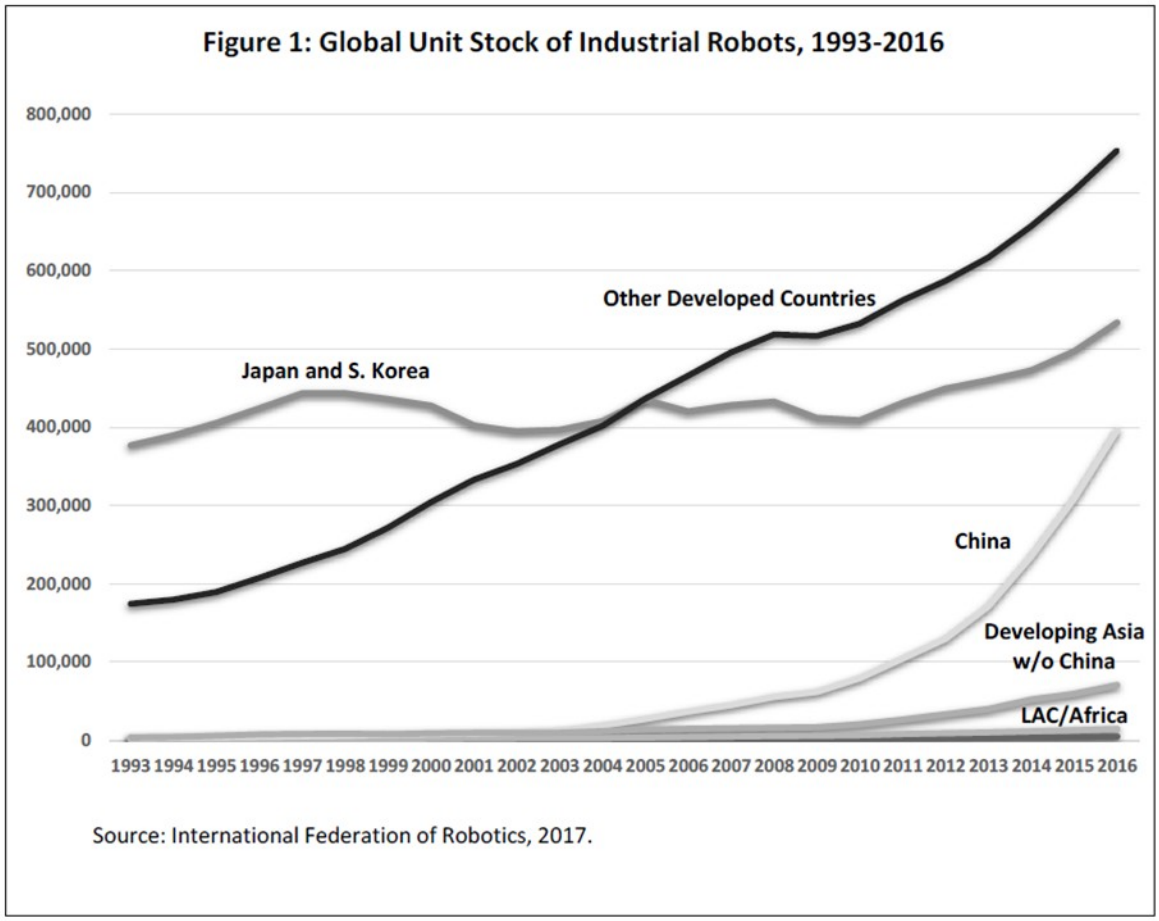
- Danish, Finnish Industries Team for Joint Naval Mine Development
- French Oil Major TotalEnergies Doubles Annual Profit to $36 Bln.
- Blaze at US Drone Plant in Latvia; Arson Not Suspected
- Norwegian Navy Seeking New Coastal Ranger Commando Vessels
- Sweden: Anti-Turkish Protests Have Increased Attack Threat
- Zelensky to Ask EU Summit for More Arms and Quick Accession: Ukrainian Official
- Germany's Scholz Criticizes 'Public Competition' to Send Arms to Ukraine

Afghanistan

- Taliban's Statement on Smuggling of Currency

More News

Stats, ai, tech: **global unit charts of robots by country**



Markets, stats, journal: feb9 robinhood hides what at least appears to be a massive trading loss as processing error in q4 earnings call, according zh

Barron's, Avi Salzman notes **the breakdown cost Robinhood 7 cents a share -- "the difference between beating and missing**

expectations." Analysts expected a 15-cent loss, but the company instead lost 19 cents a share.

Cosmos Health is a pharmaceutical company. As its shares nearly tripled to $23 that day on record volume, "online traders looking for heavily shorted companies accused exchanges of not allowing them to sell their shares into the updraft," recounts *MarketWatch*'s Jeremy Owens.

The stock then collapsed, closing at $7.59 the next day. On Wednesday, it traded around $5. **Robinhood's $57 million loss on the disaster was $4 million more than Cosmos Health's current market cap.**

This guy's fired up, though!

Government, energy, war, sanctions, journal: **"Al Gore is testing out his performative Greta mode at the World Economic Forum in Davos this week. The former Vice President and Democratic presidential candidate who as early as the 1990's was dubbed in the pages of The Washington Post as "very boring" and as having a "naturally stiff, wooden persona" momentarily (and very awkwardly) tried to go climate activist beast mode during a Q&A panel. His attempt this week to pull off a "Greta moment" and shed his notorious stiffness resulted in an unhinged rant wherein he claimed that carbon emissions and greenhouses gases are trapping "as much extra heat as would be released by 600,000 Hiroshima class atomic bombs exploding every single day on the earth."**

All of a sudden turkey and syria report 300 000 literal climate change refugees right as Turkey was blocking scandinavian membership to NATO ahead of what was considered to be a bloody offensive into SDF backed northern syria, where the united states is openly stealing syria's oil to both sanction the country and support their miulitary forces.

Seems like an incredible coincide that right as all this goes on, turkey suddenly gets hit with its worst quake sicne 1939...

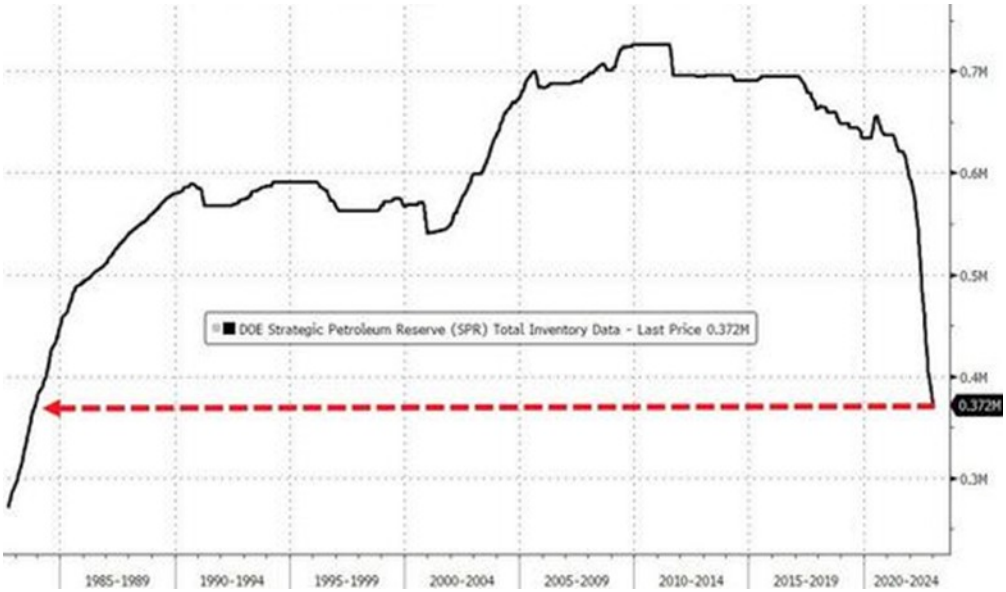
Al Gore is testing out his performative Greta mode at the World Economic Forum in Davos this week. The former Vice President and Democratic presidential candidate who as early as the 1990's was dubbed in the pages of *The Washington Post* as "very boring" and as having a "naturally stiff, wooden persona" momentarily (and very awkwardly) tried to go climate activist beast mode during a Q&A panel.

His attempt this week to **pull off a "Greta moment"** and shed his notorious stiffness resulted in an unhinged rant wherein he claimed that carbon emissions and greenhouses gases are trapping "as much extra heat as would be **released by 600,000 Hiroshima class atomic bombs exploding every single day** on the earth."

That's right, you heard him correctly... *six-hundred-thousand Hiroshima bombs every single day* - according to his bizarre rant, which he further said is **"boiling the oceans"** and creating "rain bombs" and "atmospheric rivers" resulting in millions of "climate refugees".

"Climate refugees are expected to reach one billion in this century"... he said, before turning to the "xenophobia" somehow unleashed on the world in the process due to the "Hiroshima bombs".

and this is as the world experiences the warmst winter in history in another strange cvoincidence: what experts has coined an upcoming 'putin winter' due to unprecendent saber rattling from the us and russia during the most earth shaking economic sanctions since at least world war 2



and right as freeport opened up after multiple long term closures tha t reduced the supply oif gas to europer, while harboring supply in the united states:

jan 23rd,

Markets, war: US NatGas Prices Soar After Freeport "Completed Repairs" Of Damaged Terminal, Aims For Partial Restart

US natural gas futures jumped late in the session after news hit that Freeport LNG, a major liquefied natural gas export terminal on the Texas coast which has been closed since an explosion last summer, said repairs to the terminal are complete and is seeking approval for restart.

Freeport wrote a letter to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) requesting permission to restart the terminal that accounts for about 15% of all US LNG exports.

Pursuant to your letter dated June 30, 2022, Freeport LNG Development, LP ("Freeport") ***must obtain written approval from FERC before restarting*** *any non-emergency operations in existing facilities, constructing new or modified facilities, and commissioning and placing any facilities back into service.*

As further described herein, ***Freeport has completed repairs*** *to the Export Facility on Quintana Island, Texas, performed safety reviews, revised various procedures, implemented new safety systems and performed necessary training in order to* ***safely begin to resume initial operations at its Export Facility****.*

NatGas surged 9% to $3.45 per million British thermal units.

In recent weeks, we've pointed out Freeport flows were indications the plant was nearing a restart:

- *NatGas Flows Start To Freeport LNG's Long-Shut Export Plant*
- *Freeport LNG Export Facility's Power Flows Surge For First Time Since Explosion*

However, Houston-based energy firm Criterion Research had this to say:

Criterion's weekly analysis of progress at Freeport LNG indicated that repair work was still taking place as of last week, so it's unclear what Freeport means when it cited that they have "completed repairs." We don't believe feed gas will be flowing in January, and February still seems to be an optimistic time frame for strong nominations. Based on prior announcements, once they get the green light to restart, Freeport's timeline pinned down a ramp from zero to 2 Bcf/d over an approximately two-month period.

Here's Freeport's full letter to FERC:

Any February cold weather across the Lower 48, plus the Freeport export restart, could be bullish catalysts for reversing months of sliding NatGas prices.

Policy: Go to first pageGo to previous pageGo to page 11Go to page 22Go to page 33Go to next pageGo to last page

Use your mouse to resize the view. If you're using your keyboard, you can use left and right arrow keys to resize.

and just to add to this unusually perfect turn of event for the united state: they haven't used the SPR since 1982...

America’s SPR – once the world’s largest stockpile – has been depleted to the lowest levels since 1983. To date, President Biden has released more from the SPR than all U.S. presidents in history combined]

and this guy is syaing that it's this SPR that is main driver of oil prices crashing back down to earth, when to everyone watching, they looked poised to reach 200 for the first itme ever, and that this is also the main reduction for the inflation is droppiujng narrative thats been flyign around so much in the 4th quartedrs

"The longer I’m in this business, the clearer it becomes that no one actually reads anymore. Everyone simply trumpets headlines, or retweets articles, without looking at the data.

The latest and most glaring example of this is the claim that “inflation has peaked.” Everywhere you look in the media (and on social media) people repeat this statement as if it is a fact.

"Almost ALL of the drop in inflation data has come from energy prices falling. And energy prices have fallen because the Biden administration dumped over 250 MILLION barrels of oil from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve (SPR).

To put this into perspective, it’s nearly 40% of the SPR. And the Biden admin dumped it in the span of less than two

years. *THAT* is why energy prices dropped, which accounts for almost ALL of the drop in inflation data.
See for yourself. Outside of the drop in energy prices, the only significant drop in prices occurred in used car vehicles. Everything else is still RISING in price year over year.

See not sure if this is real lol. It obviously is, but it's just what he's saying is completely the opposite of what practically everybody in the msm business media is reporting right now, so I have to just...double check to be sure. He continues on below.

"I bring all of this up because now that the Biden admin is no longer dumping tens of millions of barrels of oil on the open market, energy prices are bottoming.

Oil has bottomed and is starting to turn up.

So, unless President Biden wants to empty the SPR to zero, this “inflation has peaked” narrative is over. Inflation is coming back in a big way. And NO ONE is positioned for it."

AND ADDED THIS LATER BECAUSE I FORGOT TO ADD TO FIRST MESSAGE

The sudden turn around seems to have been driven by a combination of low initial positioning and a sudden increase in confidence about the outlook for the global economy and oil consumption. **Recent inflation data have shown the rate of price increases is moderating, which has raised hopes for an early peak in the interest rate cycle.**

what we've al been waiting for. ukraine death toll so high
just noticed that I added my own impression, which was on that most people who werew monitoring the situation closely enough could probably sense: ukraine was losing too many

lives, and they were c learly looking like they were being used by NATO with no end in sight.

On jan.12, I note an article written by an expert where they note the obvious: that ukraine, after a year of bloodshed with no end in sight, looked like they were clearly being used a a human shield.
"its impossible to hide the fact that they are being used as pawns for NATO; this is an important turning point: Ukraine Is Shedding Blood for 'NATO Mission': Ukrainian Defense Minister "

Ukrainian Defense Minister Oleksii Reznikov said last week that Ukraine is "shedding blood" for a "NATO mission" in candid remarks about the relationship between Kyiv and the Western military alliance. "At the NATO Summit in Madrid (in June 2022), it was clearly delineated that over the coming decade, the main threat to the alliance would be the Russian Federation. Today, Ukraine is eliminating this threat," Reznikov said in an interview on Ukrainian TV last week. "We are carrying out NATO's mission today. They aren't shedding their blood. We're shedding ours. That's why they're required to supply us with weapons," he added.

And as I remember very clearly: the keyword in the second half, or even throughout all of january, was escalation, escalation, escalation...

War, journal: jan11 **US now just openly admitting to training Ukrainians in their own country: "US to Begin Training Ukrainians on Patriot Missiles in Oklahoma Next Week"**

The Pentagon announced on Tuesday that the US will begin training 100 Ukrainian soldiers how to use Patriot missile defense systems as soon as next week on US soil at Fort Sill, Oklahoma.

The US has been training thousands of Ukrainians how to use US-provided weapons at its bases in Germany and elsewhere in Europe but hasn't had similar training inside the US since Russia invaded Ukraine.

Russia strongly warned the US against providing the Patriots to Kyiv, saying the systems would become a target for Russia's armed forces. But like most Russian

warnings, it was ignored, and the US continues to escalate military aid, most recently by pledging Bradley Fighting Vehicles for the first time as part of an arms package worth over $3 billion.

and here is the turkey about to invade northern sdf controlled syria...

War, Erdogan, middle east: jan10 Turkey frequently strikes Kurdish military targets in northern Syria. It has also conducted three full-blown invasions of the area since 2016, seizing territory from Kurdish-led forces.

Turkey claimed Sunday that it had killed, injured or arrested several members of Kurdish-led forces in northern Syria, amid its sustained threats of a full-scale operation in the area.

War, history, stats, Erdogan, middle east: jan8 perfect syria breakdown.. Without Turkiye's involvement in Syria, the Neocons' goal of strangling Russia on gas imports to Europe never happens

Without Turkiye's involvement in Syria, the Neocons' goal of strangling Russia on gas imports to Europe never happens. This was the main impetus behind the Syrian War in the first place. To get him on board, Erdogan had to be bribed with a massive land grab, which he's tried to accomplish.

But when he didn't do enough to start a war with Russia in November 2015 after Turkiye supposedly shot down a Russian SU-24, he was rewarded with a coup attempt against him led by the CIA and US military out of the Incerlik airbase, by all accounts.

He was saved, apparently, by an early warning from Putin and ferried out to Iran to issue his counter-attack orders to the Turkish military on the night of the coup attempt.

This was the beginning of the end of Turkiye's relationship with NATO and the US.

The road between Turkey and Russia to this point has been incredibly rocky. Putin has been exceedingly patient with Erdogan over a dozen issues, his back-pedaling and, at times, double-dealing.

But the reality is that, like him or not, every year since Russia's move into Syria Erdogan has acted in his interest, creating leverage on the ground by taking territory in Syria, making outrageous claims against the Eastern Mediterranean,

while playing the West and Russia against each other on NATO expansion, refugee policy, and his support of Azerbaijan and Ukraine.

Stats, war, middle east, energy: jan4 World Food Programme: 60% of syrian close to staring, feb 2021, Syrians have been grappling with a rise in the price of basic items over the past year as the national currency, the Syrian Pound, has plummeted in value.

"The situation has never been worse. After 10 years of conflict, Syrian families have exhausted their savings as they face a spiralling economic crisis," said Sean O'Brien, WFP Representative and Country Director in Syria.

Meanwhile, the cost of basic foods to feed a family for a month – such as bread, rice, lentils, oil and sugar – far exceeds average salaries.

"It is alarming that a simple meal is beyond the reach of families across Syria, and this new data shows humanitarian assistance is the difference between putting a meal on the table and going to bed hungry. Lifesaving support has never been so crucial," said Mr. O'Brien.

Erdogan, war: Syria and Turkey's defense ministers recently met for the first time since 2011.

Energy, middle east, war, sanctions: As part of its occupation of Syria, the US and Kurdish allies control most of the country's oil and gas resources.

Energy middle east, war, sanctions: Jordan opened its border with Syria in September, October 13, 2021, antiwar

dec8 Xi JingPing makes first vist to Riyadh in 6 years

While $30 billion in deals will be signed between Beijing and Riyadh, something much bigger is at play which too few have come to properly appreciate.

Xi Jinping last visited the kingdom in 2016, to advance Riyadh's participation in China's newly unveiled Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). A January 2016 policy report by the Chinese government to all Arab states reads:

https://tradingeconomics.com/united-states/imports/saudi-arabia#:~:text=United%20States%20Imports%20from%20Saudi%20Arabia%20was%20US%2413.93%20Billion,updated%20on%20December%20of%202022

900 troops in sdf controlled areas in northern syria, kurdistan region

The US has about 900 troops in SDF-controlled areas of Syria, keeping the territory out of the hands of Damascus. The US paused patrols with the SDF as a result of recent Turkish airstrikes but said they resumed this week.

U.S. army creates own cogen operator through, well, to put it simply: theft. I know I sound like a niave civilian here, but that's what it is, cogeneration-by-theft.

John Kirby, spokesman for the National Security Council, told reporters Friday that, as in the past, when there are Turkish operations in northern Syria, it has had an impact on the counter-ISIS operations as SDF forces concentrate on defending themselves in northern Syria. The U.S. said the SDF's decision to pause its missions against the Islamic State group triggered the U.S. decision to do so as well

stats, war, Erdogan, middle east: dec3 **2019 Turkish offensive into north-eastern Syria**

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2019_Turkish_offensive_into_north-eastern_Syria

middle east, Erdogan, war: dec3(OCT152019)Russia has said Turkey's invasion of north-eastern Syria is unacceptable

Russia has said Turkey's invasion of north-eastern Syria is unacceptable and was not agreed with Moscow in advance. Turkey has launched an assault into Syria to claim territory held by Kurdish groups after US troops withdrew from the area. Russia in response brokered a deal between the Kurds and the government in Damascus for the Syrian army to move into the territory.

"We always called for restraint from Turkey, we always believed that some kind of military operation in Syria was unacceptable," Alexander Lavrentiev, President Vladimir Putin's special envoy for Syria, told reporters.

Mr Lavrentiev also said that "real time" negotiations were taking place between the Turkish and Syrian governments amid the threat of armed conflict between the two states' militaries.

"A dialogue between Turkey and Syria is taking place, it is taking place continuously," he said, in remarks published by state-run news agencies. "Negotiations are proceeding in real time between the defence and foreign ministries and special services."

Russia, which backs Syrian president Bashar al-Assad, is the most powerful foreign military in the more than eight-year-long civil war in Syria.

Erdogan, war: dec3 they kidnapped the general of turkey and tried to legitimately stage a coup

this was the guy that was kidnapped

"Hulusi Akar (born 12 March 1952) is the current Turkish minister of defense and a former four-star Turkish Armed Forces general who served as the 29th chief of the Turkish General Staff.[2] Akar also served as a brigade commander in various NATO engagements including the International Security Assistance Force against the Taliban insurgency, Operation Deliberate Force during the Bosnian War, the Kosovo Force during the Kosovo War, as well as overseeing much of the Turkish involvement in the Syrian Civil War.[3][4][5]"

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hulusi_Akar
https://www.dailysabah.com/politics/2016/07/16/turkeys-chief-of-staff-hulusi-akar-rescued-from-pro-coup-soldiers

After decades of negationiations for entry into the EU, all talks officially came to a standstill on February 20th, 2019.

"Turkey is negotiating its accession to the European Union (EU) as a member state, following its application to become a full member of the European Economic Community (EEC), the predecessor of the EU, on 14 April 1987.[2]

After the ten founding members in 1949, Turkey became one of the first new members (the 13th member) of the Council of Europe in 1950.[3][4] The country became an associate member of the European Economic Community (EEC) in 1963 and was an associate member of the Western European Union from 1992 to its end in 2011. Turkey signed a Customs Union agreement with the EU in 1995 and was officially recognised as a candidate for full membership on 12 December 1999, at the Helsinki summit of the European Council.

Negotiations for full membership were started on 3 October 2005.[5] Progress was slow: out of the 35 chapters necessary to complete the accession process, only 16 had been opened and one had been closed by May 2016.[6] The early 2016 refugee deal between Turkey and the European Union was intended to accelerate negotiations after previous stagnation and allow visa-free travel through Europe for Turks.[7]

Since 2016, accession negotiations have stalled.[8] The EU has accused and criticized Turkey for human rights violations and deficits in rule of law.[9] In 2017, EU officials expressed that planned Turkish policies violate the Copenhagen criteria of eligibility for an EU membership.[10] On 26 June 2018, the EU's General Affairs Council stated that "Turkey has been moving further away from the European Union.

On 20 February 2019, a European parliament committee voted to suspend the accession talks, sparking criticism from the government of Turkey.[11][12][13] Turkey's accession negotiations have therefore effectively come to a standstill and no further chapters can be considered for opening or closing and no further work towards the modernisation of the EU-Turkey Customs Union is foreseen."[14][15][16][17][18]"

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Accession_of_Turkey_to_the_European_Union

Turkey has complained about a supposed presence of PKK-related forces at its southern border since 2012, when the first YPG pockets appeared during

the Syrian Civil War.[101] Following the 2014 Siege of Kobanî and the expansion of YPG/SDF forces and administration, Erdoğan's government considered the force a national security threat.[101] The 2013–2015 peace process collapsed in July 2015, resulting in a war between PKK and Turkish forces. Like other regions in southeast Turkey, regions north of the border with Syria have seen numerous PKK-related deaths. According to a Crisis Group death toll analysis based upon Turkey government and Turkish media publications, the border regions north of SDF-controlled areas had 8 Turkey security forces and 5 civilians killed in PKK-related violence in 2018 and 2019 prior to the offensive. The Şırnak region had 26 security forces and 6 civilian deaths over the same period.[100] Crisis Group did not specify if "PKK-related" deaths are linked to Syria's YPG and SDF, or from Turkey or Iraqi PKK.[100]

Ten European nations and Canada imposed an arms embargo on Turkey, while the U.S. imposed sanctions on Turkish ministries and senior government officials in response to the offensive in Syria.[84] Likewise, Trump's sudden pullout of US forces in Syria was also criticized by many, including former US military personnel, as a "serious betrayal to the Kurds" as well as a "catastrophic blow to US credibility as an ally and Washington's standing on the world stage", with one journalist stating that "this is one of the worst US foreign policy disasters since the Iraq War".[85][86][87][88] On 19 November, the US Defense Department inspector general released a report finding that the American withdrawal and subsequent Turkish incursion allowed ISIL to "reconstitute capabilities and resources within Syria and strengthen its ability to plan attacks abroad".[89]

The Syrian government initially criticized the SDF for the Turkish offensive, accusing it of separatism and not reconciling with the government, while at the same time also condemning the foreign invasion of Syrian territory.[90] However, a few days later, the SDF reached an agreement with the Syrian government, in which it would allow the Syrian Army to enter the SDF-held towns of Manbij and Kobanî in an attempt to defend the towns from the Turkish offensive.[91][92][93] Shortly thereafter, Syrian state broadcaster SANA announced that Syrian Army troops had started to deploy to the country's north.[94] Turkey and the SNA launched an offensive to capture Manbij on the same day.[95]

On 17 October 2019, U.S. Vice President Mike Pence announced that the U.S. and Turkey agreed on a deal in which Turkey would agree to a five-day ceasefire in Syria in return for a complete withdrawal by the SDF from its positions on the Syria-Turkey border.[96][97] On 22 October 2019, Russian President Vladimir Putin and Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan reached a deal to extend the ceasefire by 150 additional hours if the SDF would move 30 kilometers away from the border, as well as from Tal Rifaat and Manbij. The terms of the deal also included joint Russian–Turkish patrols 10 kilometers into Syria from the border, except in the city

of Qamishli. The new ceasefire started at 12pm local time on 23 October.[98] [99] The captured area remains part of the Turkish occupation of northern Syria.

Turkey and the United States struck a deal in August 2019 after months of Turkish threats to unilaterally invade northern Syria. The United States viewed the Syrian Democratic Forces as one of its key allies in the military intervention against ISIL in Syria, while Turkey viewed the group as an extension of the Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK), which it considers a terrorist group.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2019_Turkish_offensive_into_north-eastern_Syria

Turkish deadline for SDF withdrawal from northern Syria: Source

Turkish source tells Al Jazeera that Ankara has told the US and Russia that the SDF must withdraw within two weeks, or face a new Turkish military ground operation.

The SDF has resumed joint anti-ISIL patrols with the US after initially suspending them on Friday following Turkish air attacks [File: Baderkhan Ahmad/AP Photo]

Published On 7 Dec 20227 Dec 2022

A Turkish source has told Al Jazeera that Ankara has set a final deadline for Russia and the United States to prevent a ground military operation in northern Syria.

The official said on Tuesday that Turkey has demanded that Moscow and Washington press the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) to withdraw within two weeks from Manbij, Tal Rifaat and Kobane (Ayn al-Arab).

KEEP READING

list of 4 itemslist 1 of 4

Protesters storm gov't building in southern Syria; two killed

list 2 of 4

US military reports rocket attacks on its patrol base in Syria
list 3 of 4
Fears in Syria’s Azaz as threat of conflict rises once again
list 4 of 4
Turkish air attacks on Syria threaten US personnel: Pentagon
end of list

Turkey will not extend that deadline, according to the official, and has warned that the alternative will be a military operation against the US-backed SDF, which is largely made up of the Kurdish-dominated People’s Protection Units (YPG).

Ankara considers the YPG to be the Syrian branch of the Kurdistan Workers’ Party, a designated “terrorist” group in Turkey, the US, and the European Union. It has threatened a new ground operation against the groups in northern Syria since June, and has stepped up preparations since a bombing in Istanbul blamed on the PKK killed six people on November 13.

The PKK and the YPG have denied any involvement.

In response to Turkey’s demands, the Turkish official said that the US had proposed the idea of restructuring the SDF and giving a larger role to the Arab forces within it in administering the three towns that Turkey had demanded the SDF withdraw from.

However, Turkey said that SDF control of oil facilities had to end before it considered any American proposals.

The Russian side also placed its own demands related to Ukraine and linked those demands to it backing down on Syria.

SDF strategy

The SDF has attempted to head off Turkey’s planned operation by leaning on both the Russians and the Americans.

The group, which is the main local force the US relies on in the fight against ISIL (ISIS), had said on Friday that it would no longer participate in joint anti-ISIL patrols with the US as a result of Turkish shelling and bombardment from across the border.

Turkish FM: Turkey Would Support Assad Against Kurdish SDF

Says military operation could begin any timeby Jason Ditz Posted onJuly 29, 2022CategoriesNewsTagsSyria, Turkey

In a TV interview once again emphasizing a Syria operation could happen at any time, Turkish FM Mevlut Cavosoglu reported Turkey was willing to ally with the Assad government against the Kurdish SDF.

That brings Turkey's involvement in Syria full circle. Early in the Syrian Civil Warm Turkey broke with Assad and backed the Sunni rebels, reasoning they'd be more anti-Kurd if they won.

They didn't win though, and as Turkey moved against the Kurds with rebel-backed offensives, they naturally aligned with the Assad government, and both sides are preparing to resist Turkey.

Cavusoglu's comments suggest Turkey is having second thoughts at the path they went down, and would rather fight the Kurds without them having any allies. Syria almost certainly isn't going to take the bait there, and if Turkey was a valuable ally pre-war, at this point they'd be far too fickle to re-align with.

The Turkish Armed Forces and its ally the Syrian National Army have occupied[10][11] areas of northern Syria since August 2016, during the Syrian Civil War. Though these areas nominally acknowledge a government affiliated with the Syrian opposition, they factually constitute a separate proto-state[12] under the dual authority of decentralized native local councils and Turkish military administration.

Turkish-controlled areas of Syria comprise a 8,835-square-kilometre area encompassing over 1000 settlements, including towns such as Afrin, al-Bab, Azaz, Jarabulus, Jindires, Rajo, Tal Abyad and Ras al-Ayn. The majority of these

On October 7, 2019, the President of the United States ordered the withdrawal of US military troops stationed on the Syria–Turkey border. This withdrawal of military support was ordered by President Trump with the disapproval of the Pentagon and the US Intelligence community.[29][30] The US president ordered the withdrawal of military troops under the premise that Turkey would not invade the region being held by Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF);[29] however Turkey attacked the SDF within two days of US military withdrawal from the region.[31]

Idlib offensive[edit]

Main article: Operation Spring Shield

A cross-border military operation began on 27 February 2020 by the Turkish Armed Forces (TSK) against the Syrian Armed Forces and allied militias in the Idlib Governorate of northwestern Syria[32] in response to the Balyun airstrikes which lead to the deaths of 34 Turkish military servicemen.[33][34] Turkish Defense Minister Hulusi Akar said that the purpose of the operation had been within the framework of the Astana talks, to ensure a ceasefire agreement in the Second Northern Syria Buffer Zone and to prevent migration from Idlib towards the Turkish border. On 5 March, Turkey and Russia signed a ceasefire agreement in Moscow.[35]

Possible fourth offensive[edit]

In May 2022 Turkish and opposition Syrian officials said that Turkey's Armed Forces and the Syrian National Army are planning a new operation against the SDF, composed mostly of the YPG/YPJ.[36][37] The new operation is set to resume efforts to create 30-kilometer (18.6-mile) wide "safe zones" along Turkey's border with Syria, President Erdoğan said in a statement.[38] The operation aims at the Tal Rifaat and Manbij regions west of the Euphrates and other areas further east. Meanwhile, Ankara is in talks with Moscow over the operation. President Erdoğan reiterated his determination for the operation on August 8th, 2022.[39]

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Turkish_occupation_of_northern_Syria
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Turkish_occupation_of_northern_Syria

Stats, Africa, war government: feb8 **former rebel group that faught bloody war now a political party: "The Revolutionary United Front (RUF) was a rebel group that fought a failed eleven-year war in Sierra Leone, beginning in 1991 and ending in 2002. It later transformed into a political party, which still exists today. The three most senior surviving leaders, Issa Sesay, Morris Kallon and Augustine Gbao, were convicted in February 2009 of war crimes and crimes against humanity.[1]**

Political party[edit]

Revolutionary United Front Party	
Secretary-General	Jonathan
Founded	2003
Ideology	Nationalism

Pan-africanism

- Politics of Sierra Leone
  - Political parties
    - Elections

After peace was established, RUF was transformed into a political party: the **Revolutionary United Front Party**. As of 2006, the general secretary of the party was Jonathan. In the May 10, 2001 general election the party won 2.2% of popular votes and no seats. Its candidate at the presidential elections, Alimamy Pallo Bangura, received 1.7% of the vote. The party received its highest voting in Kailahun, 7.8% in the parliamentary election.[28][29]

The RUF most recently participated in the 2018 general election in Sierra Leone and had the 6th highest vote tally in the country. It was not considered to be a significant contender.

War, quake: feb8 **just saving the whole atw page again. too much going on. this is .....getting fucked**

News

Updated February 8, 2023 - 3:23 PM EST

How America Took Out the Nord Stream Pipeline

Biden Says Beating China Should 'Unite All of Us'

Russia: NATO Aid Risks 'Unpredictable Escalation'

- ***Ukraine Will Receive 200 German-Made Battle Tanks***
- ***State Dept Approves $10 Billion HIMARS Rocket Sale to Poland***
- ***Head of Zelensky's Party: DM Reznikov Won't Be Removed This Week***

Syria Red Crescent Says Lift Sanctions After Quake

- ***Thousands Dead as 7.8 Quake Hits Turkey/Syria Border***

US Military 'Not Ready' To Deploy New Missiles to Japan

The Israeli Raid That Left Five Dead in Jericho

US Ramps Up Operations Against ISIS in Iraq and Syria

Viewpoints

Nikki Haley Would Return to the Hardline Policies We Want to Forget by Daniel Larison

What Does 'Unprovoked' Mean? by Jacob G. Hornberger

So Much for Sanctions on Russia by Ted Snider

An Expert Reappears as Ghost by David Warsh

More Viewpoints

Spotlight

Matt Taibbi: Twitter Files and the Death of Russiagate
by Joe Lauria

Frontline

- Trump's '24 Game Plan: Be the Dove Among the Hawks
- Israeli Minister Says No Pause on Settlements After US Asked Israel to Halt Expansion

Israeli Drones Never Sleep

Russia/Ukraine

- Ship-to-Ship Loadings of Urals Crude Oil Hit Record High as Russian Oil Heads to Asia
- Austrian Colonel Claims NATO Soldiers Fighting in Ukraine as Mercenaries
- Ukraine Withdraws 19 Million Russian, Soviet-Era Books From Libraries
- Investigators May Name More Suspects in Downing of Flight MH17
- First US Warship to Transit Near Black Sea Since War in Ukraine Departs Turkey

United Kingdom

- Britcoin? UK Gets Closer to Launching a Digital Currency
- British Army Tests New Advanced Communication System in Belize Jungle

Europe

Palestine/Israel

- Ben-Gvir Threatens to Respond With 50 Missiles for Every Rocket Fired From Gaza
- Israel Wants to Demolish a Four-Story Building in Occupied East Jerusalem
- Former Combat Pilot Who Implied Netanyahu Deserves Death Apologizes to Protesters
- Israel Announces Plans to Build Illegal Settlement Near Besieged Gaza Strip
- Israeli Soldiers Kill 16-Year-Old for Throwing a Piece of Metal at an Army Vehicle
- Cybersecurity Company to Pull Money Out of Israel Over Judiciary Reforms

Syria

- Growing Calls to Open Border Crossing for Aid to Reach Syria
- Controversial Fundraiser for Syria Places Humanitarian Aid at Risk

More News

Ai, tech: feb8 **Google's AI chatbot Bard makes factual error in first demo, Alphabet Loses Over $110 Billion Market Cap**

Erdogan, sanctions: feb8 **When pressed on why the US wouldn’t engage with Damascus, Price said it "would be quite ironic, if not even counterproductive, for us to reach out to a government that has brutalized its people over the course of a dozen years now."**

from the guardian: Syrian officials and a rescue group in rebel-held north-west Syria have said the death toll there has reached 2,662, bringing the combined tally to 11,719.
The president also condemned criticism of the government’s rescue effort, condemned by many in the country as slow and inadequate.

“This is a time for unity, solidarity. In a period like this, I cannot stomach people conducting negative campaigns for political interest,” Erdoğan said, adding that it was not possible to be prepared for such a disaster.

-
-

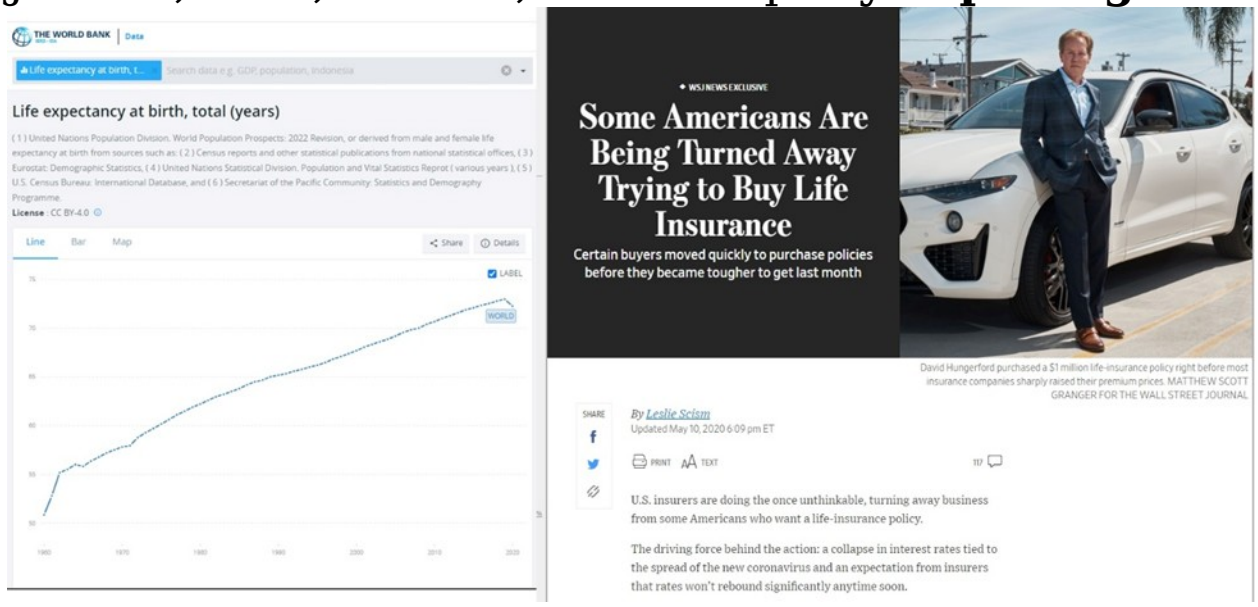
Nearly 300,000 displaced by quake in Syria – state media

More than 298,000 people have been forced to leave their homes due to this week’s deadly earthquake, Syrian state media has reported.
The number appeared to be a reference only to the parts of Syria under government control, not those held by other factions in the north-west of the country, which is closer to the epicentre of Monday’s quake.

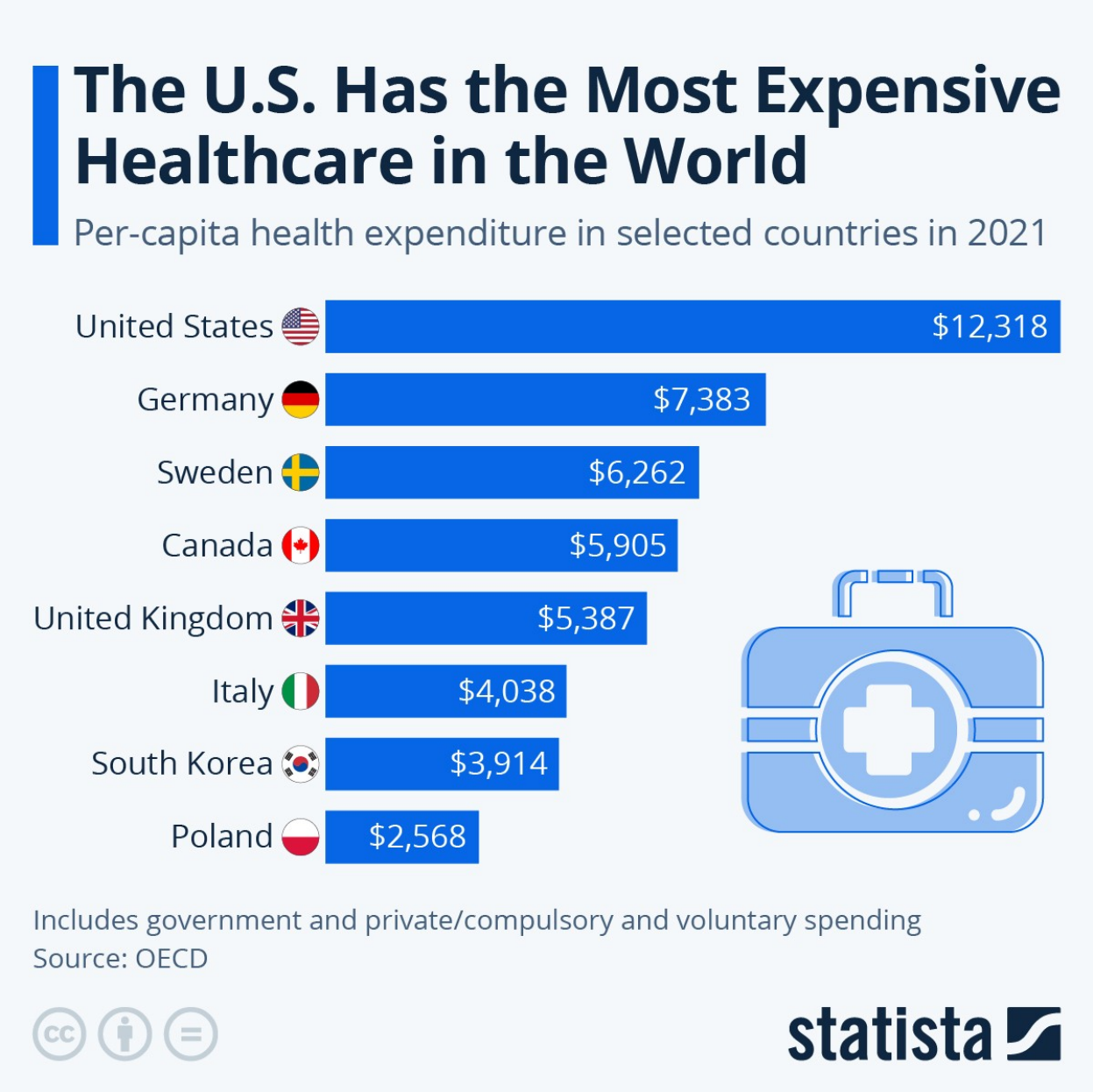
Reuters reports the state news agency Sana as quoting Hussein Makhlouf, minister of local administration and environment, as saying the state had opened 180 shelters for displaced people.

War: feb8 **(we knew this was true) Nord Stream Sabotage Was CIA, US Navy Covert Op: Seymour Hersh Bombshell Prompts White House Response**

Journal, stats, vaccine, censorship: **Eye opening..**


THE WORLD BANK | Data
Life expectancy at birth, total (years)
Line
Bar
Map
WSJ NEWS EXCLUSIVE
Some Americans Are Being Turned Away Trying to Buy Life Insurance
Certain buyers moved quickly to purchase policies before they became tougher to get last month
David Hungerford purchased a $1 million life-insurance policy right before most insurance companies sharply raised their premium prices. MATTHEW SCOTT GRANGER FOR THE WALL STREET JOURNAL
By Leslie Scism
Updated May 10, 2020 6:09 pm ET
U.S. insurers are doing the once unthinkable, turning away business from some Americans who want a life-insurance policy.
The driving force behind the action: a collapse in interest rates tied to the spread of the new coronavirus and an expectation from insurers that rates won't rebound significantly anytime soon.

Stats: feb8 **The US Has The Most Expensive Healthcare In The World**



Markets, china: feb8 **gold: the second-highest level of net purchases on record dating back to 1950, and the 13th straight year of net central bank gold purchases**

China officially started buying gold again in November and made another large purchase of 30 tons in December. That raised China’s total gold reserves to over 2,000 tons for the first time.

The Chinese central bank accumulated 1,448 tons of gold between 2002 and 2019, and then suddenly went silent. Many speculate that the Chinese continued to add gold to its holdings off the books during those silent years.

There has always been speculation that China holds far more gold than it officially reveals. As Jim Rickards pointed out on *Mises Daily* back in 2015, many people speculate that China keeps several thousand tons of gold "off the books" in a separate entity called the State Administration for Foreign Exchange (SAFE).

The Central Bank of Türkiye (Turkey) continued its consistent buying in December, adding another 25 tons to its swelling gold reserves. Over the course of 2022, Turkey added about 150 tons of gold to its hoard.

Croatia bought 2 tons of gold after having not reported any changes in its gold reserves since 2001.

After a pause in November, the Reserve Bank of India resumed purchasing gold in December, with a modest 1-ton purchase. India ranks as the ninth largest gold-holding country in the world. Since resuming buying in late 2017, the Reserve Bank of India has purchased over 200 tons of gold. In August 2020, there were reports that the RBI was considering significantly raising its gold reserves.

Quake, Erdogan, war: feb8 Turkish Stock Market Halted To Prevent Further Crash As Quake Deaths Top 11,000

Ai, tech, china: feb8 **Alibaba Shares Rise As It Tests ChatGPT-Like AI Bot**

*"...the reporter learned from **Alibaba that the Alibaba version of the chat robot ChatGPT is under development** and is **currently in the internal testing stage.**"*

Journal, war: feb7 whole antiwar page saved foillowing United States obvious show of force

following air balloon story. Those balloons were always flying around. they shot them dowon ON PURPOSE. THEY KNEWWWWW. THIS WEATHER IS IMPOSSIBLEEE

Russia

- Russian Fuel Oil Flows to Asia as EU Ban Takes Effect
- Russia Probing Alleged Ukrainian Use of Chemical Weapons
- Russia Sentences Popular Cookbook Author Over Ukraine Posts
- Russian Forces Keep Up Pressure as Ukraine Anniversary Nears
- Russia's Revenue Falls Sharply in January From Year Earlier
- Canada's Russia Sanctions Are Hitting People With No Connection to Putin's War

Ukraine

- Outnumbered and Worn Out, Ukrainians in East Brace for Russian Assault
- Ukraine Withdraws 19 Million Russian, Soviet-Era Books From Libraries
- Ukraine Lays Out Demands for Israel Ahead of Key Visit to Kyiv
- EU Parliament Planning for Possible Zelensky Visit in Days
- Norway Looks to Donate $7.3 Billion in Aid to Ukraine
- Ukraine Troops to Train on Franco-Italian Air Defense System

Europe

- Kosovo Says 'Yes' to EU's Peace Deal With Serbia, With Caveats
- Czech Army Eyes New Leopard 2A7+ Tanks After Testing Older Variant
- Georgian Court Rejects Appeal to Release Ex-Leader Saakashvili on Health Grounds
- Poland Redeploys Patriot Missiles to Capital City for Drills
- US Cautions Citizens in Sweden Over Possible Attacks in Retaliation for Koran Burning
- Swiss Neutrality on the Line as Arms-for-Ukraine Debate Heats Up

Syria

- Photos: Deadly Quake Intensifies Suffering of Displaced Syrians
- Quake Response in Syria Faces Obstacles, Says Top UN Aid Official
- At Least 20 Escape Syria Prison Holding ISIS Inmates After Turkey Quake
- Turkey Tried to Enlist PKK Against Syria in 2013: Kurdish Official

Iraq

- Iraq Daily Roundup: Nine Killed
- Two Children Die After Fire in Iraqi Kurdistan Camp
- Iraq to Ask US How to Pay Russian Energy Firms

Palestine/Israel

- Arab League Strongly Condemns Israel's 'Open War' on Palestinian People
- Israeli Combat Drones Now Equipped With 'Silent Bombs'
- Hamas Slams Sudan Agreement to Move Ahead With Israel Ties
- Hamas Says Killing Palestinian Fighters Will Not Stop Resistance
- Abbas Doubles Down on Halt to Israel Security Coordination
- Nikki Haley, Who Once Criticized AIPAC for Being Insufficiently Pro-Israel, Is Running for President

Middle East

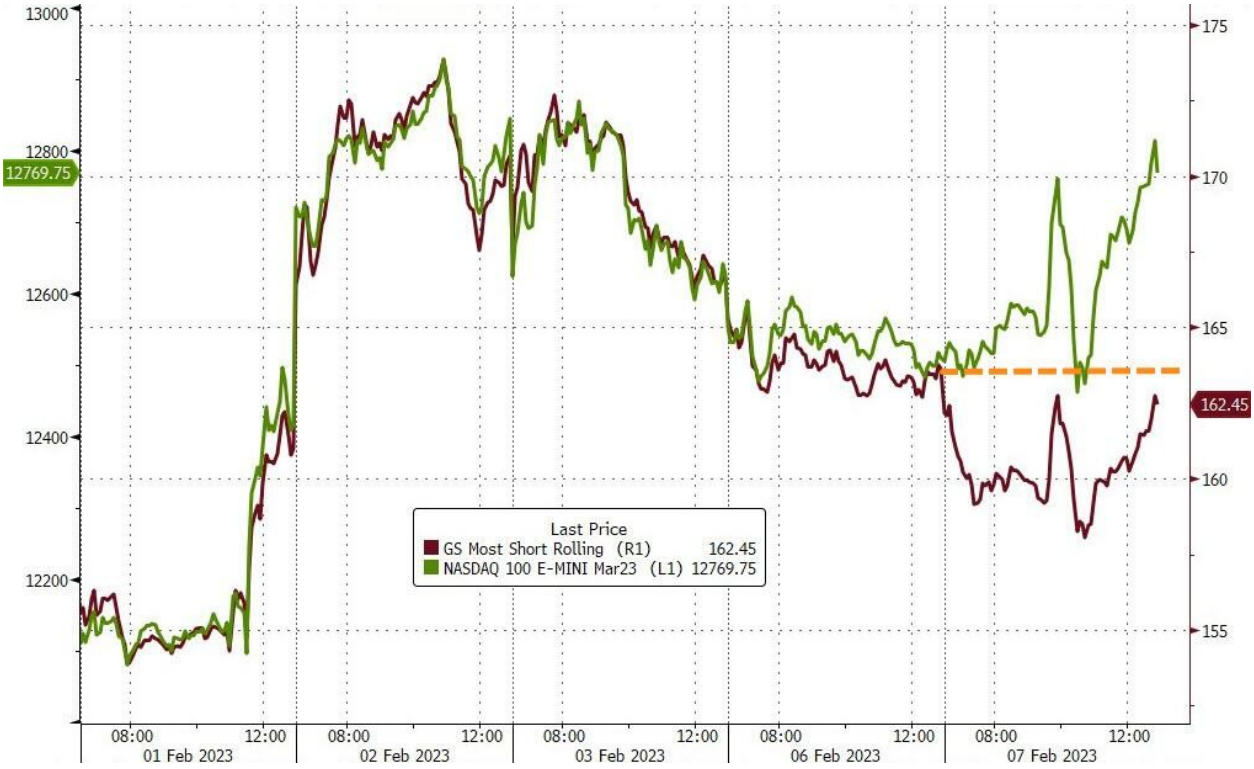
- Beirut Blast Judge Postpones Interrogations Over Dispute
- Morocco to Hand Over Saudi Man Facing Extradition, Says Brother

Afghanistan

- Qatari, Taliban Officials Meet in Afghanistan for Bilateral Talks

More News

Markets, stats: feb7 most shortred following nasdaq 100 with perfect correlation.,...shows a trader trend. It's PERFECT correlation



Energy, markets, government: feb7 **California Governor Urges Federal Inquiry Into Surging Natural Gas Prices**

California's Governor Gavin Newsom has **called** **on the federal authorities to launch an investigation into the soaring natural gas prices in California** and the rest of the Western U.S., **as customers have been warned they would receive high gas utility bills.**

In a letter to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), the agency responsible for regulating wholesale natural gas, Governor Newsom requested that the agency "immediately focus its investigatory resources on assessing whether market manipulation, anticompetitive behavior, or other anomalous activities are driving these ongoing elevated prices in the western gas markets," the governor's office said in a statement on Monday.

"Since late November 2022, wholesale natural gas prices throughout the West have risen to alarming levels that greatly exceed prices in the rest of the country," Governor Newsom said in the letter.

"These wholesale natural gas price increases were exacerbated by early cold weather in the western states, but those known factors cannot explain the extent and longevity of the price spike."

The wholesale prices of natural gas in southern California jumped in December to more than nine times the price of the U.S. benchmark futures for December, per Bloomberg's estimates.

Early on Tuesday, the front-month futures price at the Henry Hub, the U.S. benchmark, was down by 0.57% at $2.441 per million British thermal units (MMBtu)—close to the lowest level in 25 months.

The high natural gas prices in California have led to warnings from utilities operating in the state that customers would receive a sticker shock with the gas utility bills.

Californians will see relief from high utility bills – with credits of $90 to $120 showing up on gas and electric bills as soon as next month, the governor said, and added, *"We're going to get to the bottom of this because Californians deserve to know what's behind these exorbitant bills."*

[ZH: Perhaps some self-reflection Mr. Newsom, as we detailed previously...]

Besides the recent storms that have crimped national supplies, California's poor storage planning and aggressive climate action goals played a part in driving the prices skyward, Mike Umbro—an oil and gas developer in Kern County, about 150 miles north of Los Angeles—told The Epoch Times.

Utility companies use natural gas to create 43 percent of the electricity used by over 11 million customers in California, and the state only produces about 10 percent of what it needs, according to California Energy Commission.

"In the past 20 years, our in-state production was cut in half … We rely on other states around us to supply the difference of what we need," Umbro said.

The Golden State and its neighbors are “feverishly working to decarbonize the electricity grid,” he said.

“California is adding renewables while other states are shutting down coal power plants - both of these trends are increasing the usage of natural gas for power generation,” he said.

As a result, the state’s utility providers are paying “unprecedented” high prices this winter, he said.

…

To worsen matters, national supplies began flowing to Europe during the Ukraine conflict, leading to California’s storage levels dropping to the lowest in the country—41 percent—at the end of 2022, Umbro said.

But we are sure none of that matters...

War, journal, stats: feb7 **air balloons seem to be a clear 'show of force'; united states just decided to start shooting them down now--always knew they were there: President Recep Erdogan said the quake is the country's largest disaster since the 1939 Erzincan earthquake that killed upwards of 30,00 people**

President Recep Erdogan said the quake is the country's largest disaster since the 1939 Erzincan earthquake that killed upwards of 30,00 people

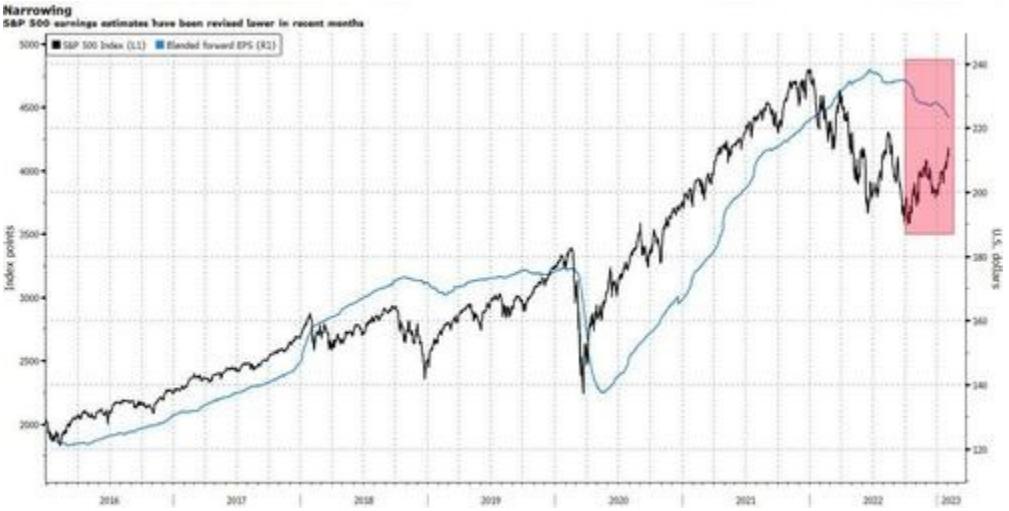
But the reality — at least for now — hasn’t been quite so grim.

With the fourth-quarter results from more than half of the S&P 500 companies already in, earnings per share have fallen 2.8% from a year earlier, according to data compiled by Bloomberg Intelligence. **That’s less than the 3.3% drop expected before earnings season began.**

The smaller-than-anticipated drop suggests that the profit contraction isn’t beginning as badly as once feared, lending support to share-price valuations. That’s likely one reason why the market is rewarding companies that exceed expectations and even dialing back the punishment of those that fall short.

“This earnings season was already projected to be pretty bad,” said Michael Casper, an equity strategist at Bloomberg Intelligence. *“When results come in line with projections or slightly worse than expected, it’s clear that investors had*

already priced that into stocks so equities aren't going to get punished as much this time around."



That doesn't mean that stock investors are in the clear, particularly given the broad uncertainty about how long the Federal Reserve will keep monetary policy tight to ensure that inflation continues to come down. As a result, **the worst of the profit hit may not come until the economy slows further or even lapses into a recession**, which has raised some concerns about whether price-to-earnings ratios are too high after the S&P 500's nearly 15% rebound from the October trough.

"The fundamentals have started to change," said Rob Haworth, senior investment strategist at U.S. Bank Wealth Management.

"When does the Fed reach its peak rates? Will inflation slow sufficiently in 2023? Will there be a reset in corporate earnings? We've gotten progress in all three that has been supportive for equity markets, but investors are still cautious given uncertainty with economic growth."

The main locus of investors' valuation concerns are the growth stocks that have benefited the most from the retreat of bond yields from last year's peaks, since those rates are used to put a value today on profits that aren't expected until years in the future. In fact, the forward multiples for technology, media and telecommunication shares in the S&P 500 have returned to levels above the pre-pandemic norm at around 20 times earnings, above the five-year average of 17.6 times shortly before the pandemic struck.

That may exert a limit on future gains, particularly after the recent surge in payroll growth cast doubt on speculation that the Fed would start cutting interest rates late this year. If a strong labor market keeps wage growth elevated and prevents inflation from coming down as fast as policymakers want, the bank may raise rates more aggressively — or hold them higher for longer — than the markets had been expecting.

“People are getting ahead of themselves with the Fed slowing down policy,” Casper, the Bloomberg Intelligence analyst, added. “It’s tough for stocks to move materially higher in the near term toward record highs. It’ll probably be a bumpy ride because there’s not a lot of room for equities to inflate further.”

NORAD Pleads Incompetence Over Failure To Spot Trump-Era Chinese Spy Balloons

A "domain awareness gap."

As the Biden administration came under fire last week for allowing a Chinese spy balloon to cross the entire United States before shooting it down off the coast of South Carolina, an anonymous US Defense Department official said over the weekend that **spy balloons transited over US territory during the Trump administration**.

Trump, and his former administration officials, collectively called bullshit on the report - saying it 'never happened.'

"Now they are putting out that a Balloon was put up by China during the Trump Administration, in order to take the ‘heat’ off" the Biden administration, Trump wrote Sunday. "China had too much respect for ‘TRUMP’ for this to have happened, and it NEVER did."

In response to the entire Trump administration's **lack of knowledge of these alleged incursions**, Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene (R-GA) on Monday called for a congressional investigation into why the US intelligence community failed to inform the sitting administration of foreign spy craft transiting over US airspace.

"**If it’s true the Pentagon purposely did NOT tell President Trump of Chinese Spy Balloons during his administration then we had a serious breach in command during the Trump admin**," Greene tweeted. "The POTUS is the Commander in Chief. We must investigate and hold accountable those who broke rank."

"Defense officials now claim that Chinese Spy Balloons briefly flew over the U.S. during the Trump admin, but if true, WHY is this just now being reported?" she asked earlier in the day.

Former Trump national security adviser John Bolton told *CNN* on Monday that it would be a "serious problem" if there was "any actual knowledge that these balloons were over the United States and higher authority wasn’t told."

"As far as I know, every Trump administration official who has been asked, has said **they didn’t know anything about it,**" Bolton continued.

Other members of Congress also had questions;

"Allowing a spy balloon from the Communist Party of China to travel across the entire continental United States before contesting its presence **is a disastrous projection of weakness by the White House**," said Senate Armed Services ranking member Roger Wicker (R-MI). "It is clear that standard protocol for defense of U.S. airspace was ignored."

The Chinese Spy Balloon's Path Across North America
Approximate path of Chinese surveillance balloon across the United States and Canada between Jan. 28 and Feb. 4, 2023
Approx. path
Approx. range if flying at 50,000 ft (15,240 m)
Approx. range if flying at 70,000 ft (21,336 m)
Sightings
Source: Open Source Intelligence via TieDyeIntel/TheIntelFrog (Twitter)
statista

And so, with their back up against the wall - the 'deep state' is now suggesting that they're simply incompetent when it comes to detecting foreign spy balloons in real time.

On Monday, NORAD commander Gen. Glen VanHereck told reporters that spy balloons entered US airspace *three times* during the Trump administration, but "that we did not detect those threats," calling it a "**domain awareness gap.**"

"Every day as a NORAD commander, it's my responsibility to detect threats to North America. I will tell you that we did not detect those threats," VanHereck said. "And that's a domain awareness gap that we have to figure out, but I don't want to go into further detail."

VanHereck then said that **the US intelligence community was able to determine the Trump-era transits *after the fact*** "from additional means that made us aware of those balloons that were previously approaching North America or transited North America."

Meanwhile, *CNN* (who else?) has seen an alleged April 2022 report, titled "People's Republic of China High-Altitude Balloon," which found that a Chinese spy balloon "circumnavigated the globe" in 2019 at an altitude of around 65,000 feet, and "drifted past Hawaii and across Florida before continuing its journey."

The Air Force assessment obtained by CNN states that a spy balloon was "launched and controlled" by China in 2019, showing the country was capable of navigating a high-altitude balloon across the globe as far back as the Trump administration.

China has "deployed multiple HABs [high altitude balloons] that can operate at 65,000ft – 328,000 ft and for months at a time," the assessment adds. -CNN

And of course; "**it is not clear from the documents when US officials first became aware of the Chinese flights or what they assessed regarding their purpose.**"

Really?

131,8951,486

War: feb7 NORAD Pleads Incompetence Over Failure To Spot Trump-Era Chinese Spy Balloons

As the Biden administration came under fire last week for allowing a Chinese spy balloon to cross the entire United States before shooting it down off the coast of South Carolina, an anonymous US Defense Department official said over the weekend that **spy balloons transited over US territory during the Trump administration**.

Trump, and his former administration officials, collectively called bullshit on the report - saying it 'never happened.'

War: feb5 "It's Disinformation": Trump, Former Officials Slam Anonymous Report Of Chinese Spy Balloons Under Their Watch

Former President Donald Trump lashed out at a report from an anonymous US Defense Department official who said over the weekend that **spy balloons transited over US territory while he was president**.

"This never happened. It would have never happened," Trump told *Fox News* on Sunday, adding that the Chinese regime "respected us greatly" under his watch.

so trump is basically supporting the idea that it would have be3en impossible for these balloons to have traversed US airspace without someone in the government knowing, a story which seems to be acceptable to any noraml perso nwatching these events right now.

Personally, I believe that this story was purposefully leaked by the united states intelligence apparatus that has an interest in molding the story to whatever suits their 'modus apparanti'. I think the deception in this story lies in the fact that chinese air balloons constantly traverse US airspace, and have been roputinely for many years now, it;'s just the US chose to leak thebn shoot down the balloojn on purposew ahead ofthe key diplomatic mission to China with **** **** cancelling a the meeting for the first time since ******. Persally, *I believe that the US shot down t he planes on purpose ahead of the meeting in specific aread as a show of force to any further attempts at controlling the economic environment. We can just change the weather, and any attempt by your member organizations to stop us will immediately result in a sho9ot down order that will eliminate any further attempt by your alliance to stand in the way of our attack. As al gorew re c3tnmtyl dsaid at the parius [peace summit. DClimatre will have effect of 600 hydrohgen bombs.*

Gety thew drift?

DO....not.....fuck.....with us.....

"It never happened with us under the Trump administration and if it did, we would have shot it down immediately," Trump added.

"**It's disinformation.**"

*Trump said the Biden administration is spreading this because "**they look so bad, as usual.**"*

"They are incompetent," he said. -Fox News

Trump also posted to Truth Social:

Donald J. Trump
@realDonaldTrump
1h
The Chinese Balloon situation is a disgrace, just like the Afghanistan horror show, and everything else surrounding the grossly incompetent Biden Administration. They are only good at cheating in elections, and disinformation — and now they are putting out that a Balloon was put up by China during the Trump Administration, in order to take the "heat" off the slow moving Biden fools. China had too much respect for "TRUMP" for this to have happened, and it NEVER did. JUST FAKE DISINFORMATION!

"So if these anonymous reports are legit, the woke military generals' version of events is that they have 100% allowed Red China spy balloons to traverse the US for years, not even bothering to inform political leadership, and only shot down this one because the public noticed? OK"

..."

Mollie

@MZHemingway

Editor-in-chief, @FDRLST. Senior Journalism Fellow,

@Hillsdale
. Fox News Contributor. Online Safety Expert. "Be lovers of freedom, and anxious for the fray!"

My latest book: "Rigged"amazon.com/Rigged-Media-D...Joined December 2008

1,423 Following
1M Followers

Trump's former Director of National Intelligence, John Ratcliffe, **also says it never happened**.

.zerohedgedotcom/political/its-disinformation-trump-former-officials-slam-anonymous-report-chinese-spy-balloons

"

War: feb5 balloon official story in a nutshell..

First, the US story.

China sent a “spy balloon” over highly strategic US sites. It chose to spy on these sites with a big visible balloon (reported as being “as big as multiple school buses”), that anyone can see with the naked eye from the ground, to “demonstrate it had the capability”, **despite having a plethora of other more discreet ways to spy like satellites or stealth drones**.

Unclear that anyone doubted China had mastered the technology of *check notes* hot air balloons and why it therefore needed to demonstrate this capability… China chose to do so on **the eve of Secretary of States Blinken’s visit to China, where he was invited**, and hours after signaling Blinken would also be meeting with Xi during his visit, **a high-level meeting not granted to any US Secretary of States in years**.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China
search
Home The Ministry Policies and Activities Press and Media Service Countries and Regions About China Resources
Home > Press and Media Service > Spokesperson's Remarks
Foreign Ministry Spokesperson's Remarks on the Unintended Entry of a Chinese Unmanned Airship into US Airspace Due to Force Majeure
2023-02-03 21:32
Q: According to media reports, a Chinese unmanned airship has been spotted in US airspace. Do you have any comment?
A: The airship is from China. It is a civilian airship used for research, mainly meteorological, purposes. Affected by the Westerlies and with limited self-steering capability, the airship deviated far from its planned course. The Chinese side regrets the unintended entry of the airship into US airspace due to force majeure. The Chinese side will continue communicating with the US side and properly handle this unexpected situation caused by force majeure.

A piece in WaPo seems to confirm this, quoting “experts in national security and aerospace [who] said the craft appears to share characteristics with high-altitude balloons used by developed countries around the world for weather forecasting.”

(Source: washingtonpost.com/world/2023/02/...)

A piece in WaPo seems to confirm this, quoting “experts in national security and aerospace [who] said the craft appears to share characteristics with high-altitude balloons used by developed countries around the world for weather forecasting.”

(Source: washingtonpost.com/world/2023/02/...)

The Chinese balloon floating 60,000 feet over the United States has been described by Secretary of State Antony Blinken as a "surveillance asset." China's foreign ministry released a statement saying it's a weather balloon. Experts in national security and aerospace said the craft appears to share characteristics with high-altitude balloons used by developed countries around the world for weather forecasting, telecommunications and scientific research.

In a briefing Thursday, a senior defense official declined to discuss what the Pentagon knows about the technology onboard the Chinese balloon, but said the payload wouldn't offer much in the way of surveillance that China couldn't collect through spy satellites.

The balloon is expected to continue its wavering path across the U.S. mainland for the next few days and posed no serious physical or intelligence threat, according to the Pentagon.

The Pentagon itself said that "the payload wouldn't offer much in the way of surveillance that China couldn't collect through spy satellites" and that "the balloon posed no serious physical or intelligence threat".

I.e. the Pentagon themselves say **it would make zero sense for China to use a balloon like this for intelligence purposes when it has satellites**. Kind of begs the question why they decided to make a big deal out of it in the first place...

I'll let you decide for yourself which story makes more sense... The sheer ridiculousness of this ***Nth "red scare" episode*** is absolutely obvious to anyone with an iota of common sense. Except, sadly, common sense seems to be in critically short supply nowadays.

Also, as often, **the real story is probably why this story became a story in the first place**.

And the important context here is of course Blinken's visit to China, which could - one can always dream - have been a step towards some form of de-escalation in China-US rapports. **It was quite easily foreseeable that a story like this one on the eve of the trip would have made it politically very difficult for Blinken to go**.

Blinken to meet China's Xi during Beijing visit -Financial Times

Reuters

So a plausible hypothesis is that this whole episode is ***an attempt by internal US forces to prevent any US-China détente***. One alternative hypothesis, much less likely, is that it's internal Chinese forces trying to do the same thing by sending this big balloon.

Unlikely because:

a) China has time on its side so it gains from reduced tensions with the US and there isn't any obvious "faction" in China who believe the contrary

b) it'd be immensely risky for anyone in China to do something like this as it'd undoubtedly be seen as an act of high treason with grave consequences for themselves

c) again, balloons like this particular one basically can't be steered so...

To *plan* sending a balloon like this from China to a place over US land isn't even doable in the first place. The last hypothesis, which I guess is also somewhat likely, is that this is **a series of unfortunate events without any malice on either side**.

1) Balloon deviates from course and gets in US airspace,

2) people see it and Pentagon feels it has to communicate about it

3) the media, wearing their usual "China bad" hat, decide to go all-in on the scare-mongering,

4) political opposition and China hawks jump on the bandwagon,

5) administration feels it has no other choice than to cancel the trip and doesn't have the political courage to say "this is just a balloon that drifted off course".

Well I guess in this scenario there is in fact malice on the media's part and that of politicians and wider members of the blob but it's "organic malice", so to speak, jumping at a golden opportunity to scare-monger.

Conclusion: however you see it, this story is absolutely shameful and a sad reflection of the insane times we live in, when rather than take the time to carefully consider facts, apply reason and common sense, we instead choose as a society to incite fear and hostility.

Stats: feb5 **Australia Becomes 1st Country To Legalize Therapeutic Use Of MDMA & Psilocybin**

Censorship: feb5 DeSantis Admin Revoking Liquor License From Orlando Venue For Allowing Children At 'Drag Queen Christmas'

China, war: feb4 From EMP-Delivery To Nuke-Mapping: Potential Purposes Of China's High-Altitude Invasion

its clear the balloon was trying to figure out what was causing this unusual weather subsequent to what was being touted at one of the worst energy crisis' in a generation due to what a coming sanctions induced 'putins winter' while the world is quickly sliding into world war III

From EMP-Delivery To Nuke-Mapping: Potential Purposes Of China's High-Altitude Invasion

BY TYLER DURDEN
SATURDAY, FEB 04, 2023 - 02:00 PM

Authored by Brandon Smith via Alt-Market.us

My home state of Montana was recently featured in news feeds this week as the first to observe and identify what the US Air Force says is a Chinese spy balloon. The Chinese claim it is a civilian weather apparatus that was blown off course and they expressed "regret" for the event, but the equipment visible in photographs suggests that this is a lie. Beyond that, another similar balloon has been spotted over Latin America – One wayward high tech Chinese balloon might be believable, but two is not a coincidence.

There are numerous theories as to why such a surveillance platform would be used by the CCP and what it is designed to look for, and I thought I would offer a couple theories based on my years of study into similar projects pursued by the US Department of Defense and DARPA.

First, the immediate question is why the Biden Administration has not destroyed the balloon? Why not shoot first and ask questions later? Well, Biden's silence on this issue suggests he either has no answers or that the truth will make the American public very angry. The most likely reason it has not been shot down is because it is very difficult to shoot down.

[It appears the balloon has finally been shot down, but only after the device crossed the entire country - Whatever data the platform was meant to collect, China likely has it now].

High altitude balloons travel at 80,000 to 120,000 feet. The average fighter jet can hit altitudes of 65,000 feet and new generation drones can climb to 50,000 feet. These balloons also emit little to no heat signature, which makes them very difficult to target using missiles. If laser technology exists that has such a range, the US military is not talking about it. It might

actually be easier to shoot down a Chinese satellite than one of these balloons.

Is there a way? It could be done perhaps with a missile using a large fragmentation-type warhead, but the White House does not seem too interested in exploring options.

Another explanation is that the DoD is waiting to see what these balloons do. This is where I would present a few theories as to their purpose. Here is what I think is most likely given the progress of spy balloon technology right now…

Chinese ALTA Balloon Program

For a few years now DARPA has been playing with a concept for high altitude surveillance balloons using a technology called “Strat-OAWL.” Balloons have been fielded for centuries as surveillance weapons, but unpredictable wind and atmospheric changes push the balloons around, making them useless within a coupe of days for any specific region.

To break it down simply, Strat-OAWL is the experimental use of lasers to read wind speed and direction far ahead of a balloon. The balloon then uses that data to increase or decrease altitude to ride airstreams in whatever directing the military wants the balloon to go. **This could allow increased navigational control, but the Holy Grail that DARPA seeks is a high alt balloon that can stay in one place indefinitely.**

I find this idea impractical, like most DARPA projects, if only because wind currents can change faster than any balloon can adjust altitude, but I do see

the potential uses here. The Chinese could unleash hundreds of high flying spy balloons with similar capabilities to spy satellites at a fraction of the cost and with less risk of destruction by enemy fire. The CCP may be attempting to test their own version of the DARPA directional balloon tech, while also waiting to see if the US has the means to shoot down the devices.

Lidar Observation From A Balloon Platform

The Chinese have been messing with lidar technology a lot lately. Lidar uses pulsed lasers to measure small variations in terrain to uncover hidden shapes and structures. It also has a knack for cutting through forest canopy and other obstructions. The problem with lidar is that the platforms commonly used to carry the apparatus are faster moving and only capture a snapshot in time. Also, it cannot see through thick clouds, dust, rain, snow or fog.

NASA and DARPA have both been testing lidar from balloons as a means to keep the lasers in the sky longer above a specific area. The Chinese balloon also looks somewhat similar to the equipment used on European lidar balloon experiments.

A lidar based spy balloon would explain Chinese interest in Eastern Montana, where there are **numerous known nuclear missile silos as well as suspected hidden silos.** The Chinese balloon did in fact come near at least one known nuclear missile base near Billings. Lidar could be exploited to find hidden bases in the region.

Multispectral Imaging

Much like Lidar, multispectral imaging tech is highly dependent on the platform that it is mounted on. MI is used to measure wavelengths of light that are not visible to the human eye and it is tested in many scientific applications. However, there are **military applications, including using MI to discover hidden variations in terrain that do not match the surrounding environment. In other words, its meant to sniff out camouflaged buildings, vehicles, fighting positions, etc.**

China launched two satellites for multispectral imaging in 2019 and may now be trying to test the same equipment on balloons. It’s hard to say if they are looking for a unique target, or if they are just establishing baseline image maps to be used in the future for…who knows?

Weapons Delivery Platform

High altitude balloons are cheap and relatively effective surveillance platforms that can be used much like satellites but, with the right equipment, could become far more maneuverable. With the CCP's limited resources it makes sense that they would be utilizing low-cost and low visibility measures instead of expensive and easier to target long range drones or spy planes.

However, these systems are not just useful for observation – **They can also be used to deliver weapons packages, including EMP weapons, nuclear weapons and biological agents**. The US has been testing balloons for nuclear delivery ever since Operation Yucca in 1956.

In the event of war between China and the US, the CCP may be looking for a way to strike with weapons of mass destruction with a passive delivery system that's hard to defend against.

The end goal is difficult to figure out. No doubt, the Chinese expect conflict with the US in the near future. The surveillance may be in preparation for an invasion of Taiwan in the near term (next couple years).

Or, the entire circus may just be designed to see how America reacts. So far, the Biden White House has done nothing and has said nothing.

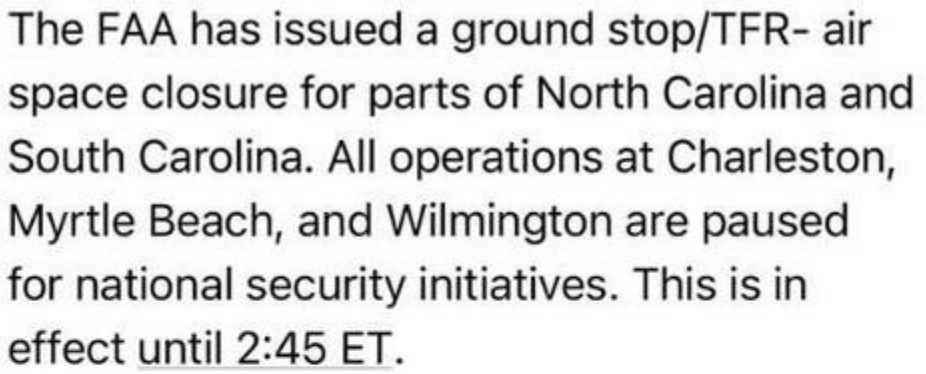
Markets, journal: feb4 **JPMorgan Warning: Israel Poses Higher Investment Risk (well no shit…)**

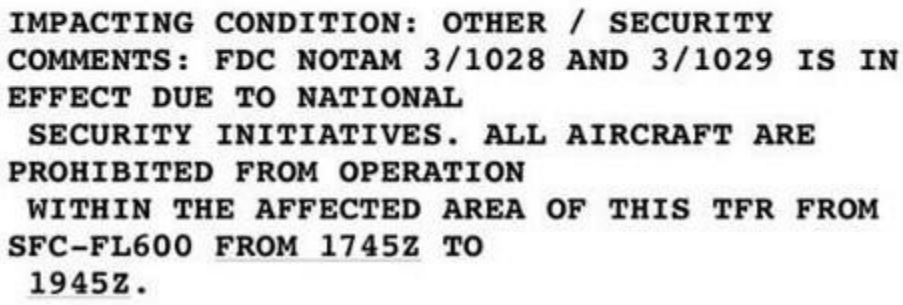
War: feb4 **US Stealth Jet Shoots Down Chinese Spy Balloon Off Carolinas**

Government, markets, inflation: feb4 **Business insolvencies in the UK surged by 57% in 2022, to 22,109, according to the latest data from the**

Insolvency Service, a UK government agency that deals with bankruptcies and companies in liquidation. It is the highest number of insolvencies registered annually since 2009, at the height of the Global Financial Crisis.

War: feb4 FAA Shuts Down Some East Coast Airspace Due To "National Security Initiatives"

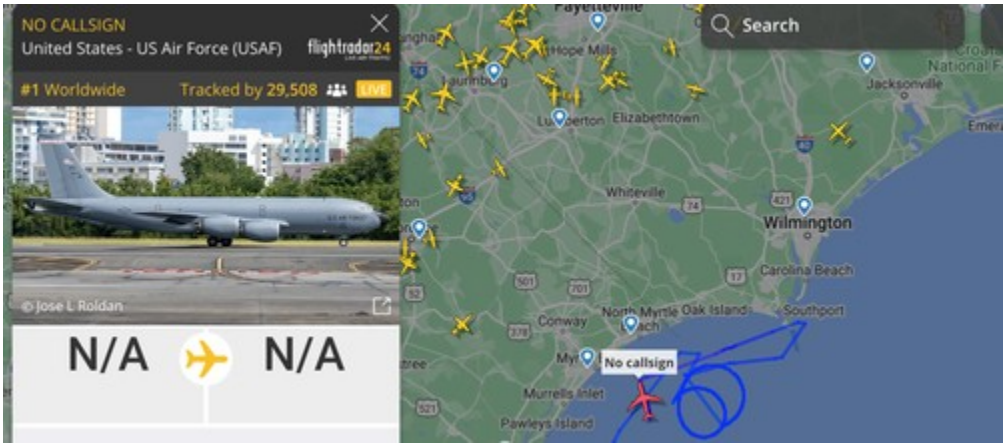

The FAA has issued a ground stop/TFR- air space closure for parts of North Carolina and South Carolina. All operations at Charleston, Myrtle Beach, and Wilmington are paused for national security initiatives. This is in effect until 2:45 ET.


IMPACTING CONDITION: OTHER / SECURITY
COMMENTS: FDC NOTAM 3/1028 AND 3/1029 IS IN EFFECT DUE TO NATIONAL
SECURITY INITIATIVES. ALL AIRCRAFT ARE PROHIBITED FROM OPERATION
WITHIN THE AFFECTED AREA OF THIS TFR FROM SFC-FL600 FROM 1745Z TO
1945Z.

Shortly after President Biden reportedly said, ***"we are going to take care of it,"*** referring to the Chinese spy balloon that is calmly drifting across US airspace, the FAA has shut down three airports and closed airspace in parts of North and South Carolina:

Watch Live: US Restricts Airspace Near Myrtle Beach For "National Defense Airspace" Operation

A US military surveillance plane is circling offshore of North Carolina.



A vessel with a large crane might be headed to an area where the military might shoot down the balloon.

A suspected Chinese surveillance balloon appears to be heading toward North Carolina, according to ABC News, citing a senior US official familiar with the situation. That official said the US would probably shoot the balloon down over the Atlantic Ocean and retrieve it.

Within the last hour, numerous Twitter users have uploaded footage of what appears to be the Chinese balloon floating above North Carolina.

Local police tell residents don't shoot their guns at the giant balloon.

On Friday, we cited Capital Weather Gang, who accurately predicted the balloon's trajectory while it was floating above the Midwest. Now updated predictions for Saturday morning show the balloon might be headed toward the Atlantic.

The balloon's payload is approximately 90 feet long, or the length of two motorhomes, and the balloon itself is much larger. Here's one of the clearest views of the balloon.

And there might be more balloons. We noted last night:

"We are seeing reports of a balloon transiting Latin America," Brig. Gen. Pat Ryder, a Pentagon spokesperson, told Fox News Friday night. "We now assess it is another Chinese surveillance balloon."

US officials have not ruled out shooting the balloon down. That might happen as soon as the balloon moves offshore into the Atlantic. Time for Space Force to shine.

Stats, journal: feb4 **mask-wearing fanaticism**

Vaccine, media, censorship: feb4 Bill Maher Asks Vaccinated Mask-Wearers If They "Keep The Condom On" After Sex

Comedian and talk host Bill Maher has slammed vaccinated people who refuse to stop wearing face masks, asking if they would keep wearing a condom after sex has ended.

Maher raises the issue in a new comedy special on HBO called *Adulting*, in which he asks mask wearers ***“Do you keep the condom on after you f*ck?”***

During the special he also thanks the audience for resolving to living their lives rather than hiding in their houses forever.

Maher previously made the same point during a *Real Time* segment.

“I don’t understand these people,” Maher said, adding “They say they’re going to continue to wear masks even after they sound the all-clear. It’s like having sex with a condom and then saying, ‘You know what? I think I’m going to leave it on for the rest of the night.'”

He went on to explain “you’re never going to have a 100% COVID free atmosphere… there’s always going to be variants, we just have to live again.”

Despite it being an obvious comedy bit, mask zealots on Twitter failed to see the humour:

During an appearance last week on Joe Rogan’s podcast, Maher labeled Democrats the party of “no common sense”, explaining that “When people say to me ‘Don’t you think you’ve gotten more conservative?’ No, I haven’t. The left has gotten goofier. So I seem more conservative, maybe, but it’s not me who’s changed.”

He continued, “I’m always saying to the Democrats ‘just don’t be the party of no common sense.’ And you will be surprised with all the amazing success you will have as opposed to what’s going to happen, which is they’re going to get their ass kicked in November.”

Stats, readlater: feb4 **read this again: "Most of the world holds the US dollar as a big part of its reserve currency stores, and as a result the exchange rate with US dollars is an important measure of the health of any given currency. Exchange rate ought to track closely with the reserve backing it, and in most places in the world it does indeed even out to that."**

Aiming to Harm Iran and Syria, US Federal Reserve Strangles Iraq’s Economy

Iraq's growing currency reserves mostly stuck abroadby Jason Ditz Posted onFebruary 2, 2023CategoriesNewsTagsFederal Reserve, Iraq

Iraq’s foreign exchange rate has steadily declined over recent years, falling to lows which are severely damaging the Iraqi economy. Ironically, this comes at a time when the foreign reserves meant to back the Iraqi dinar’s global position are at a near-term high.

Starting with the 2003 US invasion and occupation, the Central Bank of Iraq has remained closely linked to the US Federal Reserve. This was one of several long-term linkages meant to ensure the US retained strong sway over the future Iraqi economy to

react to any tensions, and in the increasingly likely event that the US feels like increased mucking about regionally.

The US regime got it in its head that Syria and Iran were using the relatively free economy of neighboring Iraq for money laundering. That's not an entirely unreasonable suspicion, as many Iranians are heavily invested in the Iraqi economy after the damage done to Iran's economy by US sanctions. Trying to rein this in, the US Federal Reserve is keeping a tight grip on the foreign reserves it holds "for" Iraq.

Much of the harm done in Iraq directly appears inadvertent and related to general US policy, as the Central Bank of Iraq's reserves are not coincidentally mostly US dollars.

Most of the world holds the US dollar as a big part of its reserve currency stores, and as a result the exchange rate with US dollars is an important measure of the health of any given currency. Exchange rate ought to track closely with the reserve backing it, and in most places in the world it does indeed even out to that.

Not so for Iraq. The Federal Reserve's own data shows Iraq's reserves surging to a multi-decade high. This is absolutely to be expected, as the Ukraine war is driving up the price of oil, and Iraq's exports are bringing in a lot of cash, even if that cash ends up in the US and not particularly accessible.

Under ordinary conditions, Iraq's central bank would strengthen the dinar by selling some of its US dollars to Iraqi financial institutions. Concerns for money laundering make this an exceedingly slow process, and few are willing to exchange their dollars for dinars, knowing how hard it can be to exchange them back. This is making trade with the US difficult, and growing Iraq's infrastructure all but impossible.

Iraq is sending a team of diplomats to the US to try to negotiate a more open policy. This is no small task, as the US really wants to control the flow of dollars in the region. Leaving the status quo in place, however, seems no solution, as it is undercutting Iraq's current government, and fueling domestic unrest in a country the US was hoping to keep as a dependable ally whose policy it could drive.

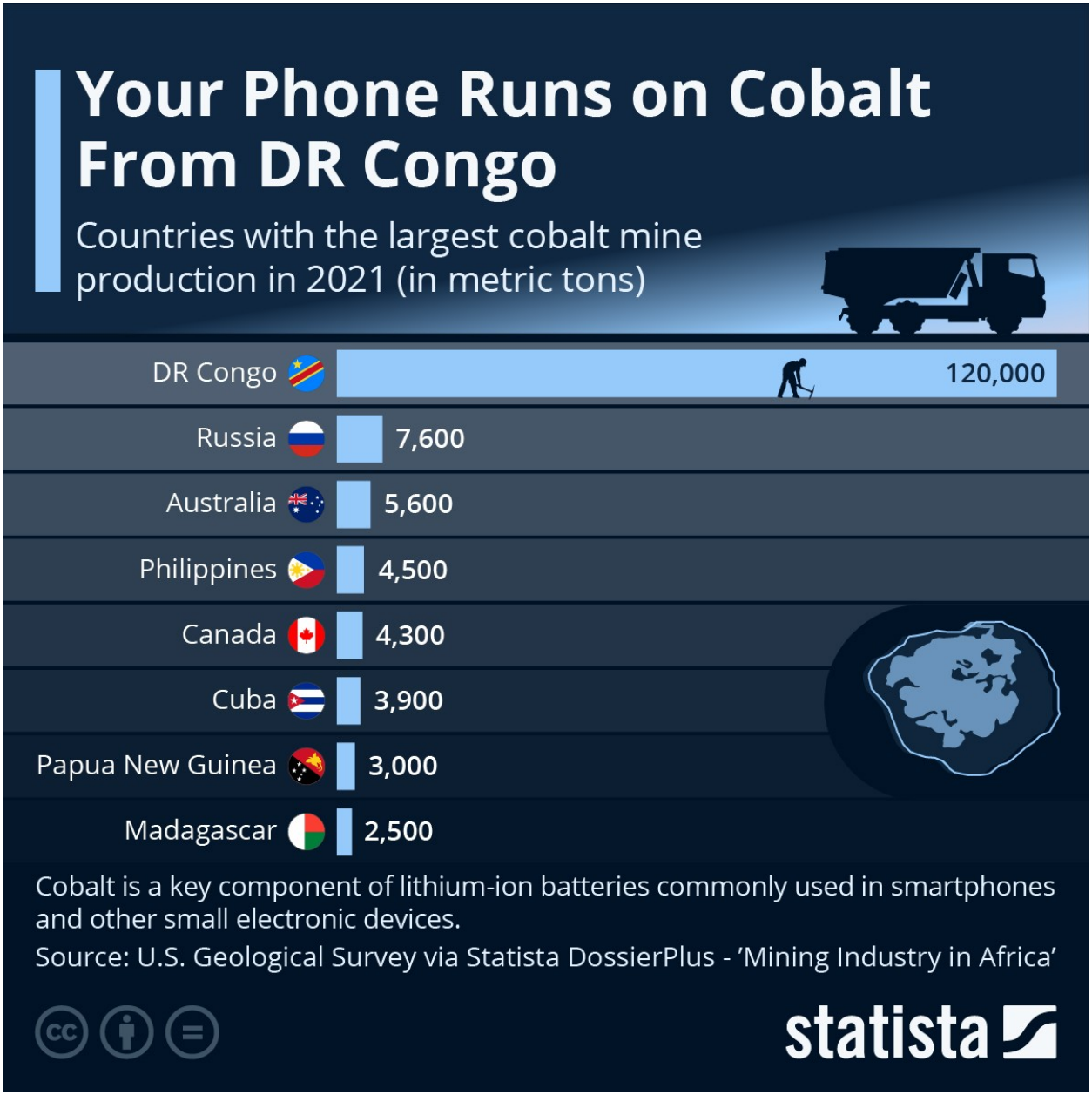
War, sanctions, energy: feb4 **Mount Washington Observatory As Cold As Mars With Record-Breaking Wind Chill**

The polar vortex that moved in yesterday has been nothing short of impressive. Records were broken at the Mount Washington Observatory (MWObs) in New Hampshire's White Mountains.

At 6,288 feet, MWObs is located at the highest peak in the Northeast and has some of the most wicked weather in the world.

The lowest-ever wind chill was recorded early Saturday morning near -109 degrees Fahrenheit, surpassing the previous record of -103 degrees. At the same time, temperatures were around -47 degrees.

Africa, stats, journal, government: feb4 40 000 children work the mines in DRC congo to deliver the essential rare earth minerals needed to build Iphone’s---yes, that thing you’re probably always using, and would feel completely lost without; it’s brought to you by, as of the time of writing: black children working in slave like conditions….


Your Phone Runs on Cobalt From DR Congo
Countries with the largest cobalt mine production in 2021 (in metric tons)
DR Congo 120,000
Russia 7,600
Australia 5,600
Philippines 4,500
Canada 4,300
Cuba 3,900
Papua New Guinea 3,000
Madagascar 2,500
Cobalt is a key component of lithium-ion batteries commonly used in smartphones and other small electronic devices.
Source: U.S. Geological Survey via Statista DossierPlus - 'Mining Industry in Africa'
statista

The use of child labor in the mining of cobalt in DRC is well documented, with the U.S. Department of Labor estimating that 40,000 children, some as young as 6 years old, work in the mines there.

https://borgenproject.org/facts-about-child-miners/

https://www.humanium.org/en/child-labor-in-the-mines-of-the-democratic-republic-of-congo/

For anybody not quite caught up on the current state of what can only be described as 'neo-colonialism' in Africa, watch this old presentation by Keith Harmon Snow. Prepared to be shocked.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CqPVRbshssY

Erdogan, middle east, war, stats: feb **66th cabinet of Turkey: Fourth Erdoğan Cabinet is the 66th government of the Republic of Turkey, which was declared on 9 July 2018**

The **Fourth Erdoğan Cabinet** is the 66th government of the Republic of Turkey, which was declared on 9 July 2018.[1] It is the first cabinet after Turkey's transition into a presidential republic.[2] It was also the first cabinet that did not require parliamentary approval to be formed, and thus has a higher number of technocrats than previous Turkish cabinets.[3]

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/66th_cabinet_of_Turkey

bunch of turks

Journal, energy, stats: feb3

Spanish natural gas grid operator Enagas has said that the volume of liquefied natural gas (LNG) vessels loaded in Spain and setting sail for Europe doubled in 2022, year-on-year, with a total of 250 ships loading LNG in Spain.

According to Enagas Chief Executive Arturo Gonzalo Aizpiri, "Our plants are contributing very significantly to the energy security of other nations and from the Barcelona plant, especially for Italy," Enagas CEO Arturo Aizpiri told reporters, as cited by Reuters.

The announcement was made on Thursday at the unveiling of a new platform at Enegas' Barcelona port regasification plant, which is expected to lead to an additional uptick in LNG traffic to Europe.

Spain boasts six LNG terminals to supply Europe, with a seventh set to become operational in a matter of weeks.

While Europe LNG loadings soared in 2022, the origins of some of that natural gas remain an issue for Europe.

While Germany is trying to curb imports of Russian LNG, Spanish media reports indicate that while loadings in Spain have doubled year-on-year, the country has also increased its imports of Russian LNG by 45% to offset natural gas shortages from Algeria due to the closure of the Maghreb-Europe gas pipeline in the fall of 2021.

According to El Periódico de la Energía, cited by Spanish news outlets, as of December 2022, Algeria's share of natural gas supply to Spain has declined from 42.7% to 23.8% and both U.S. and Russian LNG have filled in that gap. While the U.S. share of this has been higher, Russia now represents Spain's fourth-largest supplier.

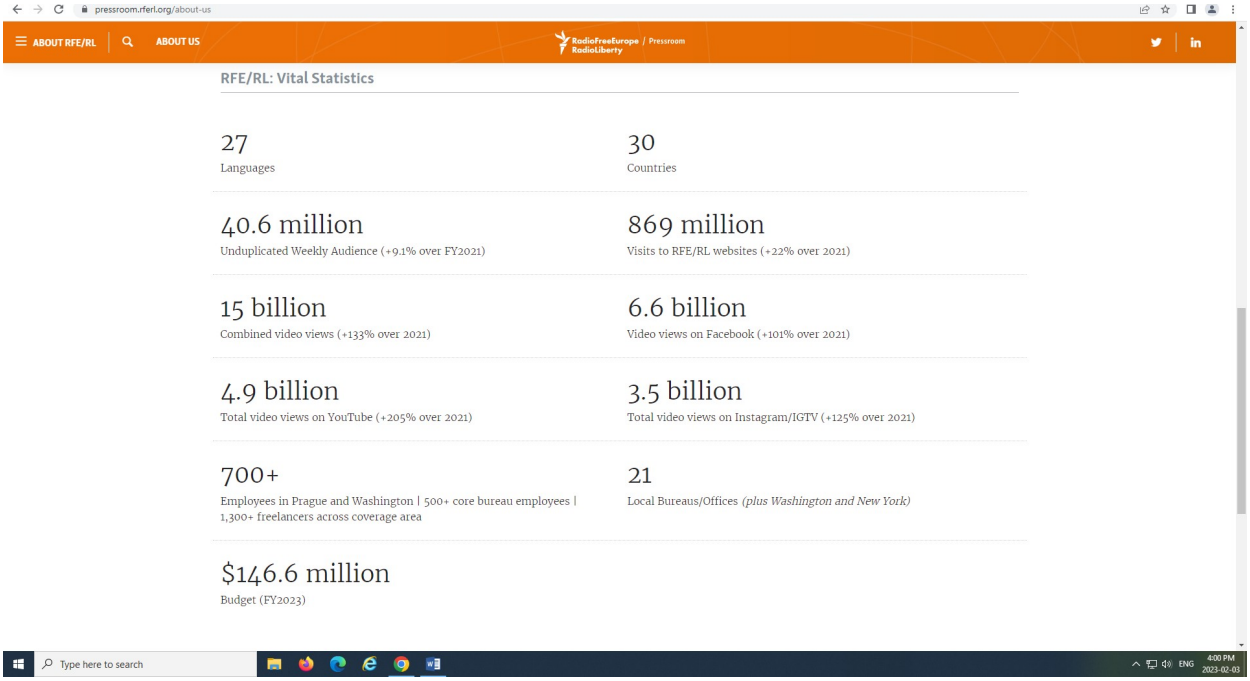
Reuters reported earlier this week that Refinitiv Eikon data now shows that Russia supplied Europe with approximately 17 million tonnes of LNG in 2022–a 20% increase over the previous year and representing a partial offset of the decline in Russian piped gas imports.

The Enagas announcement also comes a day after the European Union's energy regulator (ACER) launched its first assessment of LNG pricing ahead of a planned EU gas market correction mechanism that will include a price cap. On Wednesday, ACER published its first daily MCM reference price. The MCM will launch on February 15 and will be used to determine whether a price cap on Russian LNG is necessary.

Journal, stats, censorship: feb3 **add to: Former USIA Director of TV and Film Service Alvin Snyder recalled in his 1995 memoir that "the**

U.S. government ran a full-service public relations organization, the largest in the world

Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty (**RFE/RL**) is a United States government funded organization that broadcasts and reports news, information, and analysis to countries in Eastern Europe, Central Asia, Caucasus, and the Middle East where it says that "the free flow of information is either banned by government authorities or not fully developed".[6][7] RFE/RL is a private, non-profit 501(c)(3) corporation supervised by the U.S. Agency for Global Media, an independent government agency overseeing all U.S. federal government international broadcasting services.[8] Jeremy Bransten is acting editor-in-chief of RFE.[9]



https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Radio_Free_Europe/Radio_Liberty

War, sanctions: feb3 **EU President Promises 10th Round Of Sanctions On Russia (more good news for everyone, I guess , right...That's about all you can say now)**

European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen and a team of 15 commissioners arrived in Kyiv on February 2 for the first-ever joint meeting with Ukraine's government, with Russia's invasion, launched on February 24 last year, and Ukraine's bid for membership to the bloc on the agenda.

Speaking at a joint news conference with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskiy after their meeting, von der Leyen said that sanctions have been exacting a heavy price on Moscow, "throwing it back by a generation," with the EU price cap on oil alone making Russia lose some 160 million euros ($176 million) daily.

oilpricedotcom/Latest-Energy-News/World-News/EU-President-Promises-10th-Round-Of-Sanctions-On-Russia.html

War, Russia: feb3 **Austria Expels Four Russian Diplomats Based in Vienna**

War, sanctions, energy: feb3 **Germany Open To Idea West Behind Nord Stream Sabotage With "Aim Of Blaming It On Russia"**

In surprising bit of candid investigative reporting out of mainstream media, *The Times* asked the question this week: who attacked the Nord Stream pipelines? In an honest and objective fashion, the premier British paper writes, "In this global whodunnit, the **US, Russia and even Britain have all been suspects**."

Naturally, the collective West rushed to blame Russia for sabotaging its own natural gas delivery infrastructure in the immediate aftermath of the Sept. 26 blasts underneath the Baltic Sea.

The most important twist to the West's narrative that is featured in the *Times* report concerns Germany. Its officials say they are now **"open to theories" that the sabotage attack was conducted by a Western country** *"with the aim of blaming it on Russia."*

Image: Danish Defense Command/Handout

The key passage comments on the ongoing German investigation, deemed to have made little progress for lack of evidence as to who was behind the three blasts that disabled the pipelines. Germany, writes *The Times*, has "yet to uncover any compelling evidence" pointing to Russia, and it remains that the German investigation is **"open to theories that a Western state carried out the bombing with the aim of blaming it on Russia."**

Additionally, European officials were cited in the report as lamenting that failure to provide transparency in the probes could encourage "dangerous conspiracy theories" and "wild speculations."

One Western analyst was quoted as saying the utter lack of anything definitive is itself suspicious: **"This was a major infrastructure attack. It's strange that we've heard very little,"** the person said.

Russia this week seized on recent comments of the Biden administration's Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs Victoria Nuland to formally charge Washington with being behind the pipeline sabotage. The US 'directly participated,' he alleged, though without providing new evidence. He referenced Nuland's Senate testimony from last week:

"The other day, speaking in Congress, Ms. Victoria Nuland, the under secretary of state, said openly that like many senators, and she personally, the State Department as an organization is happy that the Nord Stream pipelines have turned into metal junk on the Baltic Sea floor. ***It's an amusing admission****," Lavrov said.*

Below is a clip of the Senate testimony in question...

The new UK *Times* report also makes note of a December report in the Washington Post, which also surprisingly and bluntly admitted that **numerous officials in the West now say the evidence is not pointing to Russia**.

The *Post* had issued the rare about-face of accusations (of Russia being the culprit) after interviewing a total of **23 diplomatic and intelligence officials** in nine countries who have been privy to the international investigation into the sabotage incident which has threatened European energy supplies going into winter. **"There is no evidence at this point that Russia was behind the sabotage,"** one European official is quoted as saying.

Further, the report indicated, "Some went so far as to say they **didn't think Russia was responsible**. Others who still consider Russia a prime suspect said positively attributing the attack — to any country — may be impossible."

Likely, that prior WaPo report, as well as Nuland's bizarre 'confession' of sorts, has allowed the German investigators to be more open in expressing their view that it could have been a Western power behind the sabotage, with the aim of a 'false flag' operation.

Markets, war: feb3 **"Hedge Fund Capitulation": Yesterday's Short Squeeze Was The Biggest In 8 Years, Surpassing Even Jan 2021**

War: feb3 EU Leadership Holds Summit In Kiev Under Air Raid Sirens As Zelensky Urges Fast-Tracked Membership

A handful of top European Union officials gathered in Kiev with Ukraine's leadership on Friday **under the sound of air raid sirens for a risky summit** at a moment Ukraine is pushing to be fast-tracked for entry into the bloc. Though far from the front line fighting in the east and south, the capital has seen sporadic airstrikes over the past months, but none have been recorded thus far Friday while the summit is being held.

"There will be no let up in our resolve. We will also support you every step of the way on your journey to the EU," EU chairman Charles Michel wrote on Twitter Friday, with a photo of him in the capital's iconic central square. But Zelensky does has a specific

timeline in mind, which he voiced Thursday after initial talks with European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen.

"I believe that Ukraine deserves to start negotiations on EU membership this year," Zelensky told reporters. "Only together a strong Ukraine and a strong European Union can protect the life we value." EU Foreign Policy chief Josep Borrell was also at the summit.

After Ukraine's candidacy was approved by the EU last June, huge hurdles remain which will without doubt make the process slower that Kiev desires, given any country seeking membership must meet key conditions in areas like corruption, an independent judiciary, media, and rule of law issues.

For this reason, European Commission President von der Leyen acknowledged "no rigid timelines" it is being guided by. **"There are no rigid timelines, but there are goals that you [Ukraine] have to reach,"** she told Zelensky.

She did preview the EU's next sanctions package targeting Russia, which in part will focus on sanctioning makers of drone components the Russian military is using to target Ukraine's energy and civilian infrastructure.

In reality, if Ukraine is let into the EU, it will take not months but years:

"The EU will support Ukraine and the Ukrainian people against Russia's ongoing war of aggression for as long as it takes," the EU leaders were expected to say a joint statement, a draft of which was seen by Reuters in advance.

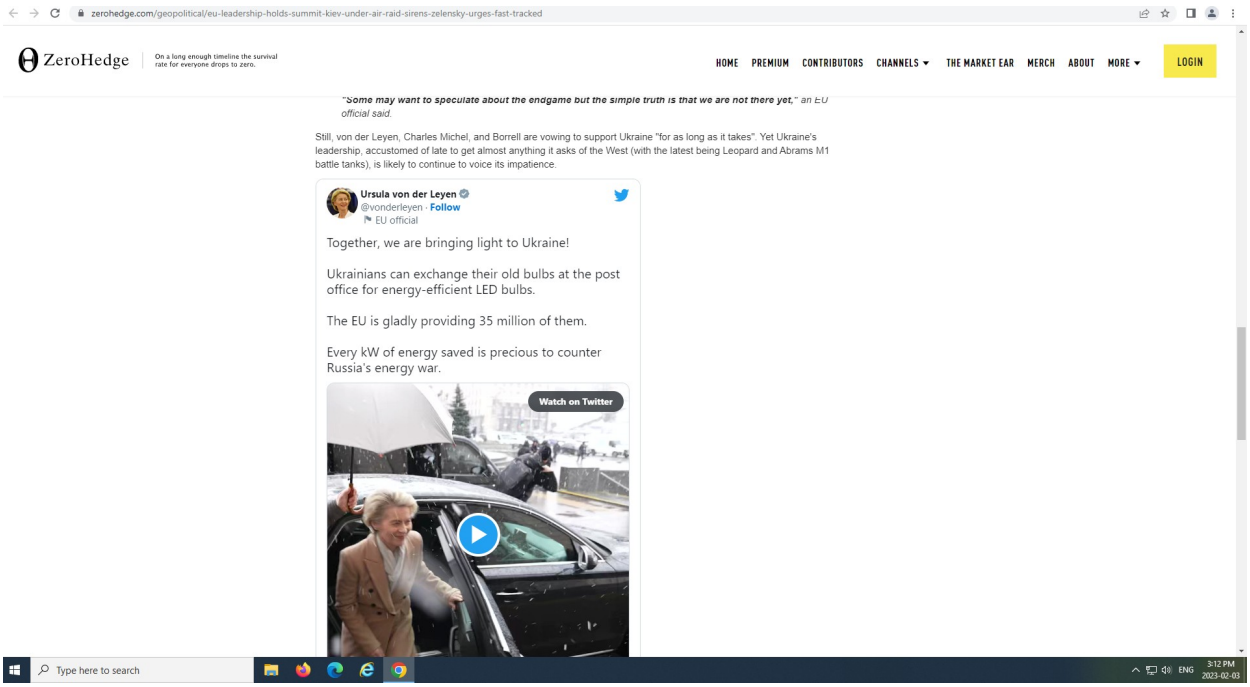
EU officials have listed multiple membership requirements, from political and economic stability to adopting various EU laws. ***The process is likely to take years****.*

"Some may want to speculate about the endgame but the simple truth is that we are not there yet," *an EU official said.*

Still, von der Leyen, Charles Michel, and Borrell are vowing to support Ukraine "for as long as it takes". Yet Ukraine's leadership, accustomed of late to get almost anything it asks of the West (with the latest being Leopard and Abrams M1 battle tanks), is likely to continue to voice its impatience.

Not helping things is Ukraine's **notorious corruption**. Recently, Zelensky has booted well over a dozen top officials from office in an effort to show his Western funders that the government is getting serious about rampant corruption, especially as tens of billions in foreign aid flows through Kiev coffers.

Zelensky on Friday also announced that Ukraine needs **"accelerated" arms supplies** if its forces hope to recapture Donbas, and at a moment Russian troops are poised to encircle the strategic city of Bakhmut.


zerohedge.com/geopolitical/eu-leadership-holds-summit-kiev-under-air-raid-sirens-zelensky-urges-fast-tracked
ZeroHedge
On a long enough timeline the survival rate for everyone drops to zero.
HOME PREMIUM CONTRIBUTORS CHANNELS THE MARKET EAR MERCH ABOUT MORE LOGIN
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Ursula von der Leyen
@vonderleyen · Follow
EU official
Together, we are bringing light to Ukraine!
Ukrainians can exchange their old bulbs at the post office for energy-efficient LED bulbs.
The EU is gladly providing 35 million of them.
Every kW of energy saved is precious to counter Russia's energy war.
Watch on Twitter
Type here to search
ENG
3:12 PM
2023-02-03

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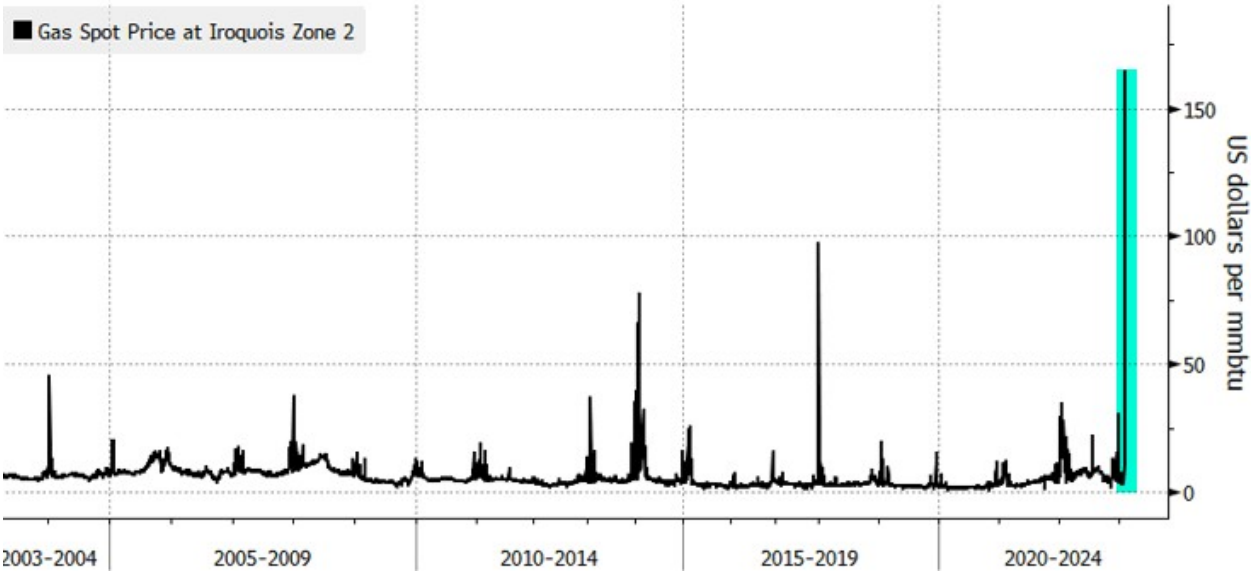
War, journal, readlater: feb3 just saved the whole page. This is a crucible moment in history, right now, as we speak
Turned out that I didn’t “save the whole page”, as I said above. I’m almost certain that I was referring to atw, so I’m just going to make up for this by going back to the page saved in their archive in upload that instead

War, sanctions, energy: feb3 **New York NatGas Prices Erupt To 20-Year High Ahead Of Polar Vortex**



New Yorkers will feel the wrath of Old Man Winter today as temperatures will plummet into the teens and single digits by this weekend. Heating demand will soar as millions turn up their thermostats to stay warm. The result so far has been the largest spike in New York natural gas prices in two decades.

Bloomberg data shows next-day NatGas deliveries via the Iroquois Gas pipeline that transports Canadian NatGas into New York jumped to $164.80 per million British thermal units (MMBtu), a 14x increase from Wednesday prices. This is the highest print for NatGas at the New York hub dating back to 2003.

Earlier, we quoted Upstate New York meteorologist Ben Frechette who warned, "the coldest airmass on the entire planet will be over New England by Friday night – the only comparable air currently exists over central Siberia."

Heating demand is also expected to surge in Boston. Prices at the Algonquin City Gate NatGas hub traded around $58/MMBtu, up from $12/MMBtu on the previous day.

Despite the increasing heating demand in the Northeast, US NatGas prices slid another 2% to $2.40/MMBtu on Friday as traders overlooked the cold shot in the Northeast as mild winter across the Lower 48 has allowed for increases in NatGas production and storage.

16 minutes ago

-10 outside is bested by my 550° wood stove

play_arrow4play_arrow

in-the-ether
12 minutes ago

yeah, but how many more "election" cycles until they issue you tickets for "polluting" when you do so?

play_arrowplay_arrow

GlassHouse101
8 minutes ago

Piss off the government: be self sufficient and save money at the same time

play_arrow1play_arrow

Proudblacksheep
7 minutes ago

HOW DARE YOU said some ******. But her replacement is fine!

play_arrowplay_arrow1

Endless Chorf
1 minute ago

Didn't New York State recently ban wood burning stoves as a heat source? Seriously.

play_arrowplay_arrow

Java Gold
8 minutes ago

Oh no. It’s going to be Cold for 48 hours in February.

What a Phucking Circus. It never ends !!!!

play_arrow3play_arrow1

SilverNV
14 minutes ago

Soon we can just burn ****lib bodies for warmth.

play_arrow3play_arrow1

OldNewB
10 minutes ago
(Edited)

But don't think of eating them afterwards...you don't want to consume the spike proteins riddling the meat on the carcass.

play_arrow3play_arrow1

dbtunr
9 minutes ago

If you knew all the stuff that cows, chickens, and pigs are stuck with, you'd never eat again.

play_arrow2play_arrow1

Time to get huge'
5 minutes ago

As much as I'm a free market fan, this just seems like price gouging..... As others have said, no pre-planning and storage of gas for this little blip of cold?

play_arrow2play_arrow

Seven_Costanza
4 minutes ago
(Edited)

Small hats gonna get their cut.

play_arrow2play_arrow

Virgil Krenshaw
PREMIUM
8 minutes ago

Winter had gotten too boring.

The Davosians needed to unleash a little weather weapon hell so they could watch the peasants suffer and jerk off.

play_arrow2play_arrow

dbtunr
11 minutes ago

And yet PSEG in NJ notified everyone gas rates went down 23% on our bills going forward. My January bill was less than my same bill last year ($302 vs $320) for gas and electric and is primed to go even lower going forward. What inflation?

play_arrow2play_arrow

Jerome Powell's Missing Nutsack
4 minutes ago

Damn. That's a lot of money to heat a cardboard box.

play_arrow1play_arrow1

dbtunr
2 minutes ago

Yeah, your mom keeps me warm at night.

play_arrowplay_arrow

Jerome Powell's Missing Nutsack
1 minute ago

Oooh. Sick burn, bro. Now get back to wiping windshields on the off-ramp, Hobo Pete.

play_arrowplay_arrow

Known Fact
14 minutes ago

These people need to get a grip -- It's going to be back in the 40s and 50s starting Sunday

play_arrow2play_arrow

ZeeMasterOfPuppets

15 minutes ago

Now that's called PLANNING ON THE FLY!

play_arrow2play_arrow

Jack O'Neill
15 minutes ago

That's called extortion.

play_arrow3play_arrow

ZeeMasterOfPuppets
14 minutes ago

They extort only from people that don't plan ahead ...

play_arrowplay_arrow

AlchemistsEnd
PREMIUM
4 minutes ago

Does this count as inflation?

play_arrow1play_arrow

Big iron
5 minutes ago

Muh.

.....you know what they say....

Without ***MURDER HORNETS*** *it's just another Weather Story on ZH*

play_arrow1play_arrow

That pod
12 minutes ago

For this fraud to work we all need to believe that demand never varies in the winter, and energy companies never plan for it.....with storage.

play_arrow1play_arrow1

Ghost
PREMIUM
13 minutes ago
(Edited)

We know now that climate change caused this.

play_arrow1play_arrow1

WutNTarnation
48 seconds ago

I thought energy was in a glut and prices crashing. Aw, I listened to the experts again.

play_arrowplay_arrow

helena_maslach
1 minute ago

choose

play_arrowplay_arrow

Big iron
4 minutes ago

THREE DOG NIGHT

....Coming to New England

play_arrowplay_arrow

J 457
PREMIUM
15 minutes ago

$2.40 and heading down. I thought about UNG at $9 but will now wait until $5.

play_arrowplay_arrow

RagaMuffin
16 minutes ago

Funny how Freeport still isn't pumping LNG ; -)

play_arrowplay_arrow

J 457
PREMIUM
16 minutes ago

And when they do, will the price of NG rise or fall?

play_arrowplay_arrow

dbtunr
11 minutes ago

rise is US but fall in Europe

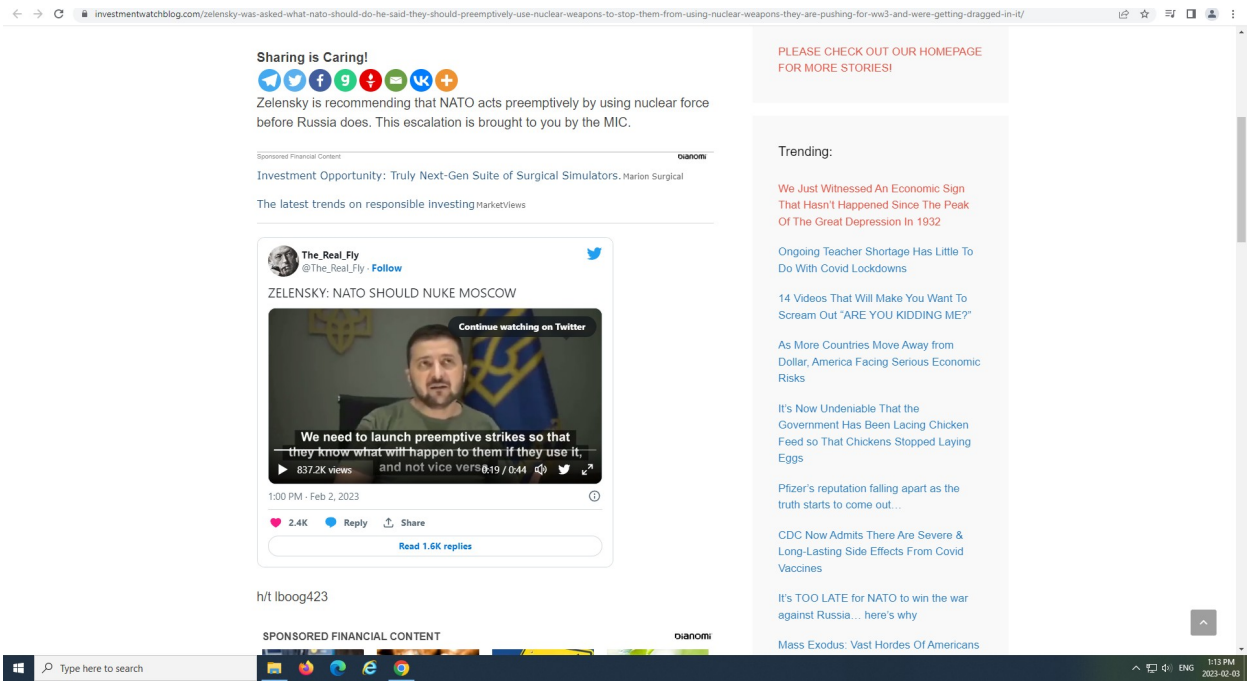
play_arrowplay_arrow

Oligarch 2.0
17 minutes ago

Winter is coming, we told you !

play_arrowplay_arrow

War: feb3 **zelensky uses the n word with clear anguish in his eyes.**


investmentwatchblog.com/zelensky-was-asked-what-nato-should-do-he-said-they-should-preemptively-use-nuclear-weapons-to-stop-them-from-using-nuclear-weapons-they-are-pushing-for-ww3-and-were-getting-dragged-in-it/
Sharing is Caring!
Zelensky is recommending that NATO acts preemptively by using nuclear force before Russia does. This escalation is brought to you by the MIC.
Sponsored Financial Content
Dianomi
Investment Opportunity: Truly Next-Gen Suite of Surgical Simulators. Marion Surgical
The latest trends on responsible investing MarketViews
The_Real_Fly
@The_Real_Fly · Follow
ZELENSKY: NATO SHOULD NUKE MOSCOW
Continue watching on Twitter
We need to launch preemptive strikes so that they know what will happen to them if they use it, and not vice versa
837.2K views
0:19 / 0:44
1:00 PM · Feb 2, 2023
2.4K
Reply
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We Just Witnessed An Economic Sign That Hasn't Happened Since The Peak Of The Great Depression In 1932
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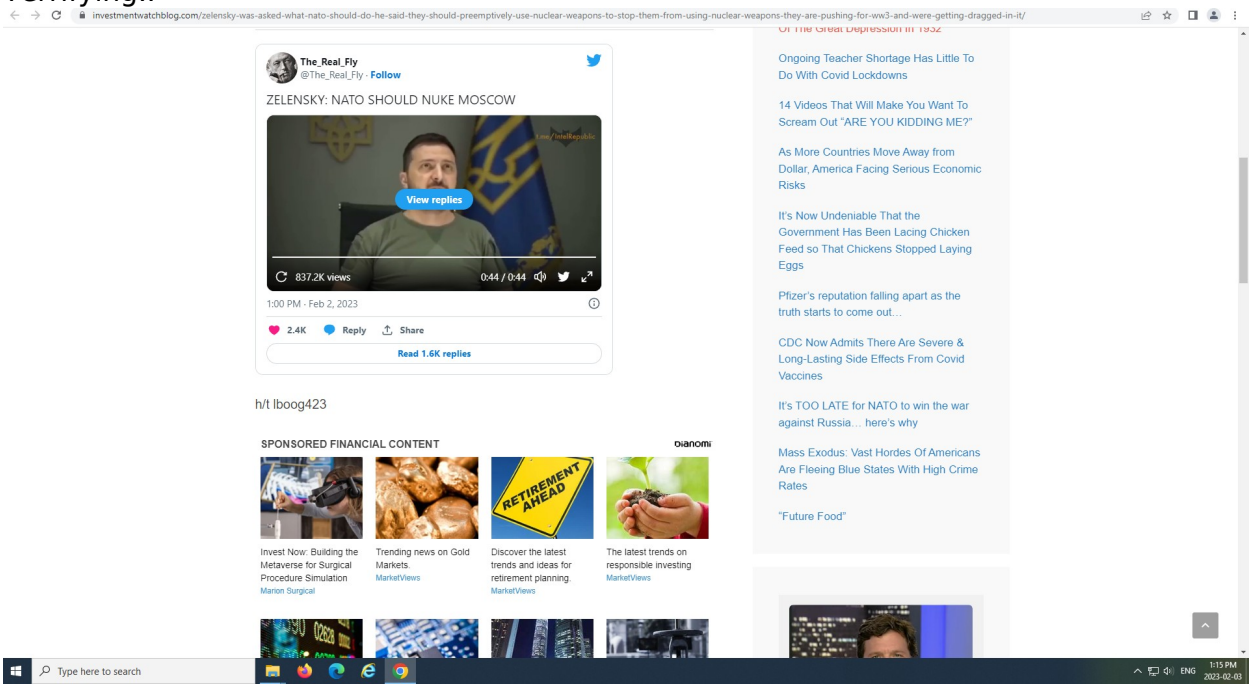
14 Videos That Will Make You Want To Scream Out "ARE YOU KIDDING ME?"
As More Countries Move Away from Dollar, America Facing Serious Economic Risks
It's Now Undeniable That the Government Has Been Lacing Chicken Feed so That Chickens Stopped Laying Eggs
Pfizer's reputation falling apart as the truth starts to come out…
CDC Now Admits There Are Severe & Long-Lasting Side Effects From Covid Vaccines
It's TOO LATE for NATO to win the war against Russia… here's why
Mass Exodus: Vast Hordes Of Americans
Type here to search
ENG
1:13 PM
2023-02-03

and to add this: you can just see it his eye-- the anguish, fear, and desperation...

Terrifying..


investmentwatchblog.com/zelensky-was-asked-what-nato-should-do-he-said-they-should-preemptively-use-nuclear-weapons-to-stop-them-from-using-nuclear-weapons-they-are-pushing-for-ww3-and-were-getting-dragged-in-it/
The_Real_Fly
@The_Real_Fly · Follow
ZELENSKY: NATO SHOULD NUKE MOSCOW
View replies
837.2K views
0:44 / 0:44
1:00 PM · Feb 2, 2023
2.4K
Reply
Share
Read 1.6K replies
h/t lboog423
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Marion Surgical
Trending news on Gold Markets.
MarketViews
RETIREMENT AHEAD
Discover the latest trends and ideas for retirement planning.
MarketViews
The latest trends on responsible investing
MarketViews
Ongoing Teacher Shortage Has Little To Do With Covid Lockdowns
14 Videos That Will Make You Want To Scream Out "ARE YOU KIDDING ME?"
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It's TOO LATE for NATO to win the war against Russia… here's why
Mass Exodus: Vast Hordes Of Americans Are Fleeing Blue States With High Crime Rates
"Future Food"
Type here to search
ENG
1:15 PM
2023-02-03

Ai, tech: feb3 **5 bucks for full voice imitation**

The creepy new world of convincing deep fake voices has arrived

What Eleven Labs has achieved in voice synthesis has many productive and positive uses, of course. All sorts of robotic systems or automation systems can benefit from this technology, and content creators who have very limited budgets can use these AI voices to generate narration, audio books, automated news reading utilities and more. It has enormous implications for the visually impaired, too.

At the same time, like any technology, this AI voice synthesis system can also be used with malicious intent. With nothing more than a one-minute sample of a person's voice, almost anyone can use Eleven Labs technology to clone their voice and have it produce convincing audio performances of almost any text block entered into the system.

The tech could be used to make President Trump say he wants to fly to Mars and live there, or to have Joe Biden sound like he's talking in a coherent way that makes sense (which, by itself, might seem creepy). Similarly, the tech could be used to generate faked voice "recordings" of famous people uttering horrific things, such as Tom Brady saying how much he hates football, for example, or Rep. Ilhan Omar talking about how much she hates America. (Or maybe that needs no AI voice at all…)

And this means that from this day forward, **we can no longer trust what we hear to be authentic**. It's sort of fitting, actually, since we already live in a world with fake news, rigged elections, fake vaccine science, fake currency, faked genders, faked history and fake 'bots producing fake likes on Fakebook (er, I mean Facebook). Almost everything that enters our consciousness in society today is altered, rigged or in some way inauthentic, from the CDC paying celebrities to pimp vaccines to Federal Reserve banksters telling us that the dollar is an excellent store of value. (Or the

New York Times fabricating stories about “Russia collusion” with Trump, which we now know was complete fiction.) What the Eleven Labs voice synthesis engine means is that **now we have to be extra careful about what we believe we are hearing**. Just because you hear a voice that sounds like Kim Kardashian touting a fashion hand bag — oh God please turn that noise off! — doesn’t mean she actually said that.

Combine AI voices with ChatGPT and half the white collar work force is now obsolete

When you combine AI voice synthesis with the generative capabilities of ChatGPT, the AI knowledge system that generates human-sounding text, you make about half of today’s white collar workers obsolete.

Conventional doctors, for example, that do little more than assess symptoms and push Big Pharma pills on patients, are now obsolete. ChatGPT can do a much better job, and Eleven Labs voices can make ChatGPT sound almost fully human.

Similarly, many attorneys, accountants and government workers are obsolete at this point, since their jobs can be easily replaced with ChatGPT + Eleven Labs AI voice synthesis.

The people who *won’t* be obsolete are those who engage in non-algorithmic professions and creative processes, such as naturopathic physicians, non-scripted content creators, artists, inventors and so on. This brings me to an important realization that needs to be shared, if not shouted: **If you don’t want to be made obsolete by rapidly advancing AI systems, do something that’s fully human**, something that can’t be easily replicated with an algorithm.

Put another way, people who currently carry out simple, repetitive jobs will soon be replaced with AI systems. So-called “journalists” who merely read teleprompters and perform scripted news propaganda for the cameras — i.e. CNN, MSNBC, Fox News, etc. — will soon be replaced by AI systems that render both voices and faces in real time. *Convincingly*.

War: feb3 **pretty serious statements from the leader of an eastern european country: “Today we are witnessing a kind of third world war, which will become larger, wider & more severe than today in the coming days, weeks and months. Mark my words”**

Russia’s foreign minister Lavrov says: “we will ensure that the events organized by the west for the anniversary of the special operation in Ukraine won’t be the only thing to attract world attention”

Serbia’s President Vucic on Ukraine: “Today we are witnessing a kind of third world war, which will become larger, wider & more severe than today in the coming days, weeks and months. Mark my words”

Media, censorship, war: feb3 **crazy but informed writer notes: "This is the First Clip I’ve Seen of Jordan Peterson Where He Isn’t Crying. So apparently Joprdan Peterson crys all the time: that's his schtick**

Energy, war, journal: feb3 **weird articel thaty I saved from JAN 16, 2023 - 05:15 PM stood out to me at the time because it relaterd to the nusual weather that everybody just witnessed this winter, but added that much of this cold is being directed to small areas of the world, or what they refer to as vortex's. they p;redicted the that the cold would come to the west eventually, but in 2 weeks. Hoiw they were abler to predict this, I have no idea. It just seems suspicious**

US NatGas Prices Rise As Models Suggest 'Polar Vortex To Unload On US'

The price of NatGas tumbled to an 18-month low last week as mild weather boosted injections into storage facilities by slashing demand. Last week, the Energy Information Administration announced a rare rise in inventories of 11 billion cubic feet in stocks.

However, as we've pointed out in recent weeks and even days, first in *"US NatGas Prices Slide To 18-Month Low On Warm Spell; Some Models Forecast Cold Blast In Weeks"* and *"California Pounding Continues, But Upcoming Large-Scale Weather Pattern Change On The Way,"* as well as *"Siberia Records Minus-80 Degrees As Talk Of Polar Vortex Grows,"* long term weather models are showing the increasing possibility for colder weather. The latest run of the Global Forecast System (GFS) shows the possibility of the return of winter by the end of the month.

https://oilprice.com/Latest-Energy-News/World-News/US-Gas-Prices-Soar-As-Models-Suggest-Return-Of-Winter.html

weird articel thaty I saved from JAN 16, 2023 - 05:15 PM stood out to me at the time because it relaterd to the nusual weather that everybody just witnessed this winter, but added that much of this cold is being directed to small areas of the world, or what they refer to as vortex's. they alsoi p;redicted the that the cold would come to the west eventually, but in 2 weeks. Hoiw they were abler to predict this, I have no idea. It just seems suspicious. The're preidction were right. Also, zerohedge hjas been writting a lot about these "polar vortex" and weridf weather anomolies. On the 16th, I fibnally decided to save on of these articles.

Coldest Airmass On Planet Will Be Over New England On Friday Night

BY TYLER DURDEN
FRIDAY, FEB 03, 2023 - 11:30 AM

After an unseasonably warm January across the eastern half of the lower 48, some of the coldest air of the season will pour into the Northeast on Friday through Saturday.

This week the polar vortex has weakened and will allow frigid air to escape the Arctic and move southward across North America.

"A ferocious Arctic blast will bring dangerous cold and blowing snow Friday into Saturday," tweeted the National Weather Service in Maine, as it forecasted bone-chilling weather, with "wind chills in the 50s below across the north."

Upstate New York meteorologist Ben Frechette tweeted, "the coldest airmass on the entire planet will be over New England by Friday night – the only comparable air currently exists over central Siberia."

The fast-moving polar vortex will be in and out by the latter parts of the weekend. But during the dip of the polar vortex, wind chills between 40 and 60 below zero are expected across the New England region.

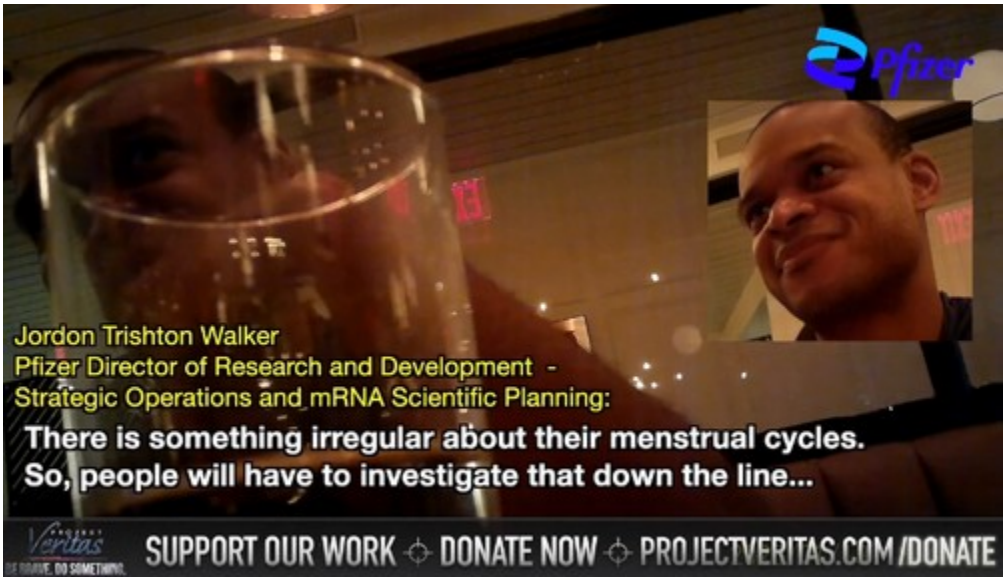
By Sunday and into Monday, the cold will retreat. However, legendary Punxsutawney Phil saw his shadow on Thursday, which means the possibility of six more weeks of winter.

Vaccine, journal, government, war, censorship: feb3 so basically what he's telling us is that they didn't do enoug hstudy's on the thing....

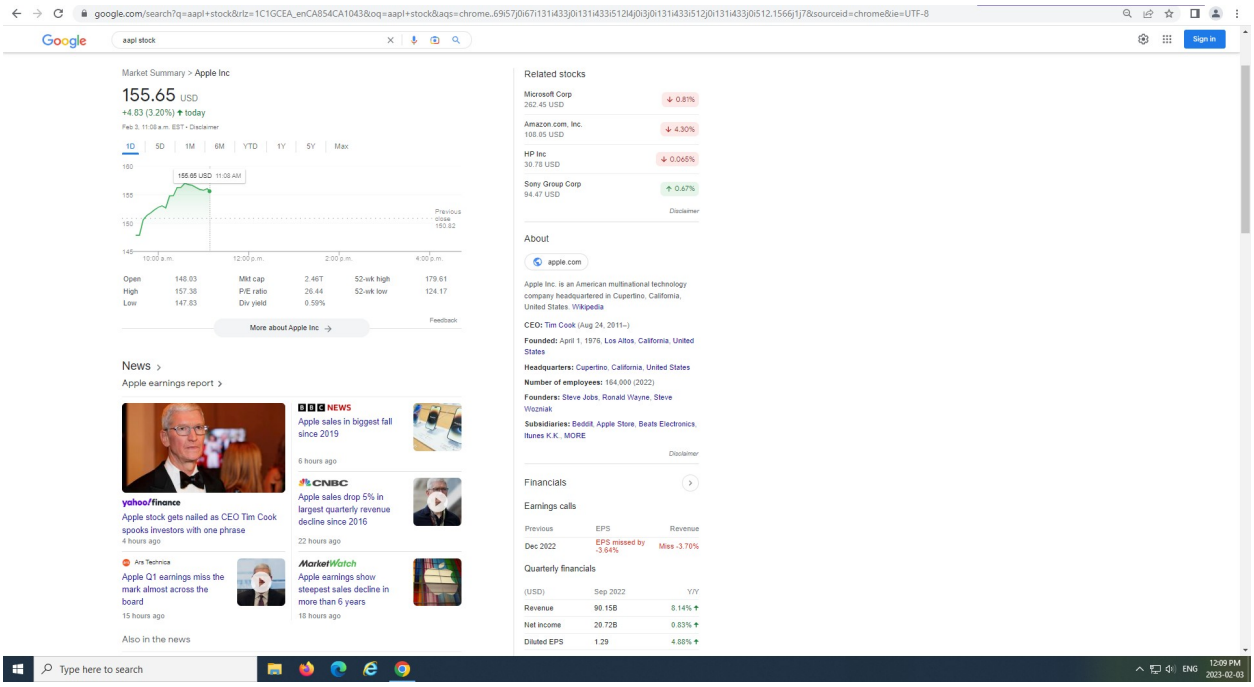
"**There is something irregular about the menstrual cycles. So, people will have to investigate that down the line**," Walker told an undercover journalist he thought he was on a date with.

"The [COVID] vaccine shouldn’t be interfering with that [menstrual cycles]. So, we don’t really know," he added.

Walker also hopes we don't discover that "somehow this mRNA lingers in the body and like -- because it has to be affecting something hormonal to impact menstrual cycles," adding "I hope we don’t discover something really bad down the line…If something were to happen downstream and it was, like, really bad? I mean, **the scale of that scandal would be enormous**."


Pfizer
Jordon Trishton Walker
Pfizer Director of Research and Development -
Strategic Operations and mRNA Scientific Planning:
There is something irregular about their menstrual cycles.
So, people will have to investigate that down the line...
SUPPORT OUR WORK ✣ DONATE NOW ✣ PROJECTVERITAS.COM/DONATE

Government, inflation, sanctions, war: feb3 **why is it up right now then. Didn't it tank yesterday due to bad earnings? Considering the conditions, you'd think it would've been the catalyst for some kind of short to medium term downtrend, but, instead, it is back up, and for what seems to be no reason whatsoever..**


google.com/search?q=aapl+stock&rlz=1C1GCEA_enCA854CA1043&oq=aapl+stock&aqs=chrome..69i57j0i67i131i433j0i131i433i512l4j0i3j0i131i433i512j0i131i433j0i512.1566j1j7&sourceid=chrome&ie=UTF-8
Google
aapl stock
Sign in
Market Summary > Apple Inc
155.65 USD
+4.83 (3.20%) ↑ today
Related stocks
Microsoft Corp 262.45 USD ↓ 0.81%
Amazon.com, Inc. 108.05 USD ↓ 4.30%
HP Inc 30.78 USD ↓ 0.065%
Sony Group Corp 94.47 USD ↑ 0.67%
About
apple.com
Apple Inc. is an American multinational technology company headquartered in Cupertino, California, United States. Wikipedia
CEO: Tim Cook (Aug 24, 2011–)
Founded: April 1, 1976, Los Altos, California, United States
Headquarters: Cupertino, California, United States
Number of employees: 164,000 (2022)
Founders: Steve Jobs, Ronald Wayne, Steve Wozniak
Subsidiaries: Beddit, Apple Store, Beats Electronics, Itunes K.K., MORE
Financials
Earnings calls
Quarterly financials
News
Apple earnings report
BBC NEWS
Apple sales in biggest fall since 2019
6 hours ago
CNBC
Apple sales drop 5% in largest quarterly revenue decline since 2016
22 hours ago
yahoo/finance
Apple stock gets nailed as CEO Tim Cook spooks investors with one phrase
4 hours ago
Ars Technica
Apple Q1 earnings miss the mark almost across the board
15 hours ago
MarketWatch
Apple earnings show steepest sales decline in more than 6 years
18 hours ago
Also in the news
Type here to search
12:09 PM
2023-02-03

stats, government: **what is new england?: New England is a region comprising six states in the Northeastern United States: Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont. It is bordered by the state of New York to the west and by the Canadian provinces of New Brunswick to the northeast and Quebec to the north. The Atlantic Ocean is to the east and southeast, and Long Island Sound is to the southwest. Boston is New England's largest city, as well as the capital of Massachusetts. Greater Boston is the largest metropolitan area, with nearly a third of New England's population; this area includes Worcester, Massachusetts (the second-largest city in New England), Manchester, New Hampshire (the largest city in New Hampshire), and Providence, Rhode Island (the capital of and largest city in Rhode Island). https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New_England**

War, china, Erdogan: feb3 Blinken Postpones China Trip Amid Spy Balloon Allegations Over Montana

In response to some US officials accusing China of sending a spy balloon near ICBM fields in Montana, the Chinese foreign ministry said the balloon was for monitoring the 'weather' and veered off course and entered into US airspace due to force majeure.

The ministry "regrets the unintended entry" and said Chinese officials would continue communicating with the US about the balloon. They added the balloon is for meteorological and 'other scientific research.'

Earlier, foreign ministry spokeswoman Mao Ning urged the US to act "calmly and prudently" after some US officials accused China of sending a spy balloon.

"I want to emphasize that before the facts are clear, any speculation and hype are not conducive to the solution of the problem," Ning said.

So China states the balloon is for weather purposes only, while some US officials declare it a spy balloon. One thing is certain. The balloon mysteriously ended up near a highly sensitive area in Montana that is home to ICBM fields.

* * *

US military commanders have advised President Biden against shooting down a Chinese spy balloon flying over the US.

Reuters said the US military took "custody" of the "high-altitude surveillance balloon" and deployed military aircraft, including stealth fighter jets, to observe it.

Such balloons operate at an altitude of 15-22 miles, well above commercial air traffic. The balloon's size is estimated to be equivalent to three buses.

History, rome, journal: feb3 Africa (Roman province), Carthage

Africa Proconsularis was a Roman province on the northern African coast that was established in 146 BC following the defeat of Carthage in the Third Punic War. It roughly comprised the territory of present-day Tunisia, the northeast of Algeria, and the coast of western Libya along the Gulf of Sirte. The territory was originally inhabited by Berber people, known in Latin as *Mauri* indigenous to all of North Africa west of Egypt; in the 9th century BC, Phoenicians built settlements along the Mediterranean Sea to facilitate shipping, of which Carthage rose to dominance in the 8th century BC until its conquest by the Roman Republic.

It was one of the wealthiest provinces in the western part of the Roman Empire, second only to Italy. Apart from the city of Carthage, other large settlements in the province were Hadrumetum (modern Sousse, Tunisia), capital of Byzacena, and Hippo Regius (modern Annaba, Algeria).

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Africa_(Roman_province)

History, holy roman empire: Duchy of Normandy

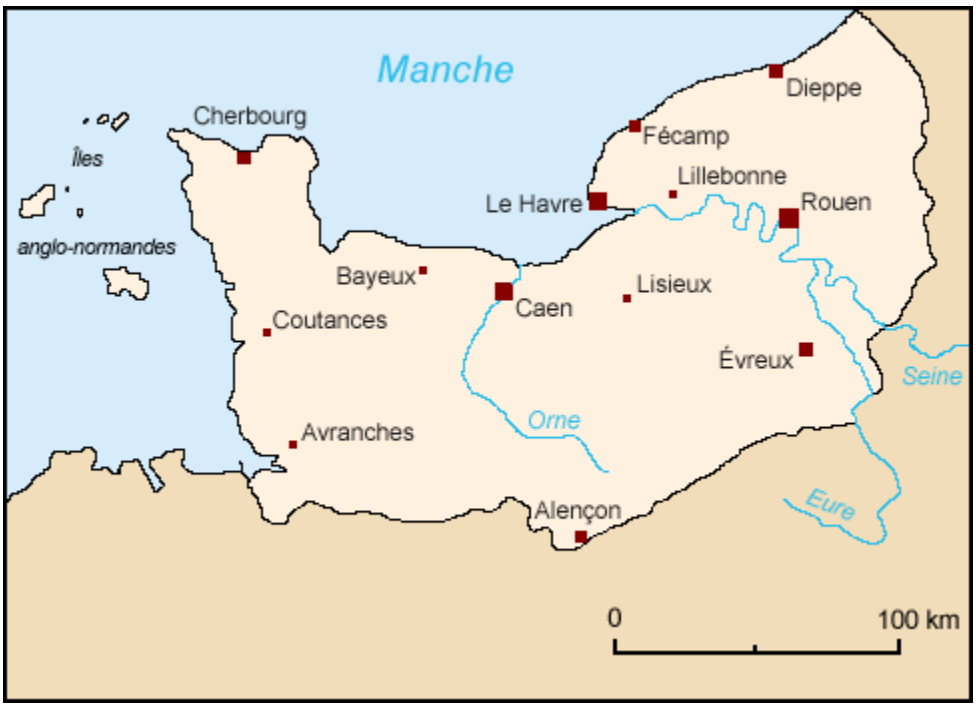
The **Duchy of Normandy** grew out of the 911 Treaty of Saint-Clair-sur-Epte between King Charles III of West Francia and the Viking leader Rollo. The duchy was named for its inhabitants, the Normans.

From 1066 until 1204, as a result of the Norman conquest of England, the dukes of Normandy were usually also kings of England, the only exceptions being Dukes Robert Curthose (1087–1106), Geoffrey Plantagenet (1144–1150) and Henry II (1150-1152), who became king of England in 1152.

In 1202, Philip II of France declared Normandy forfeit to him and seized it by force of arms in 1204. It remained disputed territory until the Treaty of Paris of 1259, when the English sovereign ceded his claim except for the Channel Islands; i.e., the Bailiwicks of Guernsey and Jersey, and their dependencies (including Sark).

In the Kingdom of France, the duchy was occasionally set apart as an appanage to be ruled by a member of the royal family. After 1469, however, it was permanently united to the royal domain, although the title was occasionally conferred as an honorific upon junior members of the royal family. The last French duke of Normandy in this sense was Louis-Charles, duke from 1785 to 1789.

The Monarch of England currently claims the title "Duke of Normandy" (even when the monarch is a female). This is a historical title but still includes the Channel Islands which are administered by the United Kingdom.



Erdogan, middle east, energy: feb3 the chart looks like its showing a trend of migration corrated to wars/attacks

https://www.statista.com/statistics/623514/migrant-arrivals-to-italy/

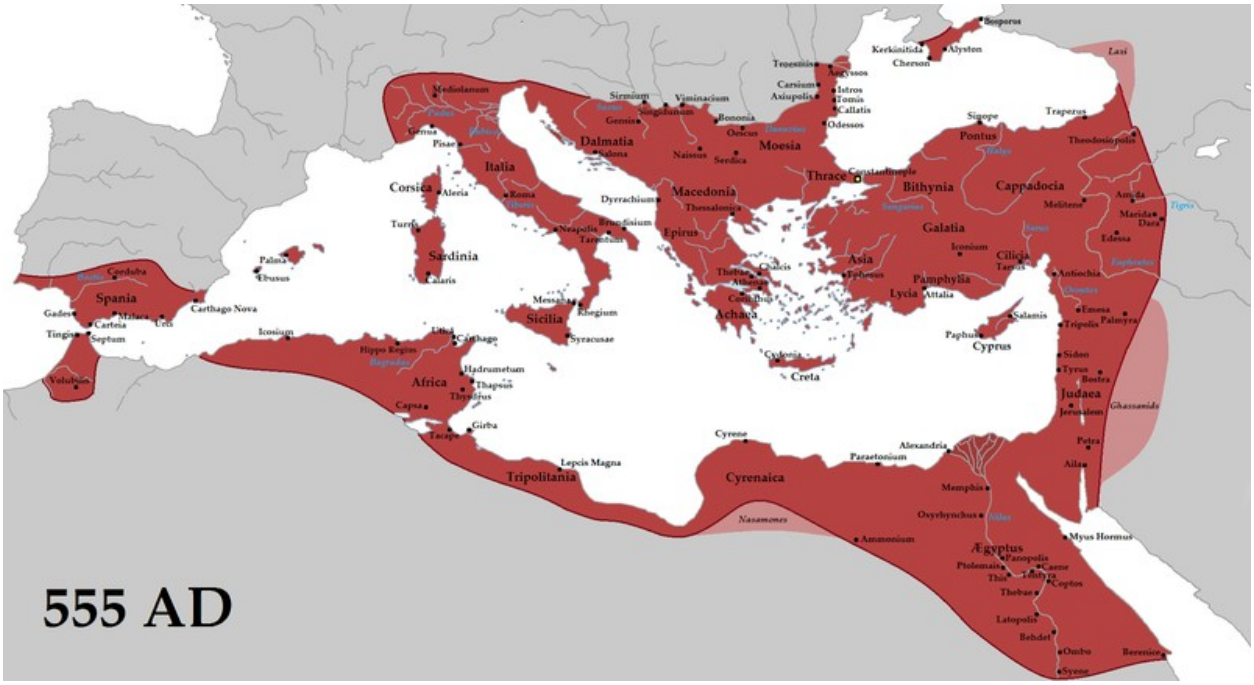
70,000 illegal migrants reached Italy in 2022, Police magazine

Stats, history, rome: imperial italy if it would have won ww2 encompassed most of north eastern africa

and this is what was considered, or would have been considered, "metroplitan italy". What drew me to look into this was researching into the crazy amount migratiobn italy has been recieving as of late, especially in the media. It must be a mjor issue to local citizens, and almost certainly a main conversation point among average people in the country. 70 000 non-citizens from completely different ethnic and cultural backgrounds arriving all in one year would be hard to ignore for most normal people...

you can see that it includes tripoli as well. While looking into thism, I also noticed some thing that stood out to me that I hadn't noticed before, but aught to have. There are many large islands between the country of italy and the northern africa. Malta, for instance, almost similar in size to cape breton.

this was the italian empire, or the roman empire, in 555.



The lands which comprise modern-day Malta, were a part of the Byzantine Empire (The empire in 555 under Justinian the Great, at its greatest extent since the fall of the Western Roman Empire

The lands which comprise modern-day Malta, were a part of the Byzantine Empire (The empire in 555 under Justinian the Great, at its greatest extent since the fall of the Western Roman Empire (its vassals in pink))

kingdom of africa

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kingdom_of_Africa

stats, government, war: feb3 migrants, italy..

70 000 african migrants have entered not just europe, but italy alone, and just this year...WTF!

https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-11448161/Italian-PM-Giorgia-Meloni-slams-France-forcing-Burkina-Faso-hand-50-imports.html

Italy ‘complicit’ in crimes for renewing pact with Libya: NGOs

https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2023/2/2/italy-complicit-in-crimes-for-renewing-pact-with-libya-ngos

weak leadership forced to include amendment that could institutionalize censorship on social media by holding senior execs personally liable for the distribution of harmful content. Article said amendment could result in situations where it would be considered 'harmful' to distribute videos of migrants crossing into the country, and thus the video would be throttled or removed. This example shocked me, confirming my prior suspicions that they would use the public will to protect children online as a means to censor infomationb online that threatens the status quo.

It's the latest change to a key piece of legislation that has been a long time in the making. As the bill has evolved, it's provoked debate on the best way to keep people – especially children – safe online. There are many critics of the bill – both those who think it is draconian and poses a risk to cybersecurity and freedom of speech, and those who believe it isn't far-reaching enough when it comes to cracking down on content that could pose harm to internet users. It also opens the door to real-world consequences beyond monetary fines.

Social media platforms will be required by law to vet the ages of users and publish risk assessments about the threats their services pose to younger users. How they will verify the ages of users will be a challenge that tech platforms have to figure out an answer to.

A number of new criminal offenses will be introduced under the bill, including the sharing of pornographic deepfakes

(digitally generated images of real people), cyberflashing (sending pornographic images without consent) and downblousing (taking and sharing images down women's tops).

The draft text of the bill names UK media watchdog Ofcom as the regulator in charge of holding tech companies accountable.

The bill will give Ofcom the power to fine tech companies £18 million ($22.2 million) or 10% of their annual revenue, whichever is higher, if they fail to remove illegal content. It will also have the power to block sites and services.

According to January's amendment, managers at tech companies will also be liable for failing to protect children from exposure to harmful content. This could lead to prosecution and jail sentences of up to two years.

One major criticism of the Online Safety Bill is that it poses a threat to freedom of expression due to its potential for censoring legal content.

Rights organizations strongly opposed the requirement for tech companies to crack down on content that was harmful but not illegal. An amendment in November 2022 removed mention of "lawful but harmful" content from the text, instead obliging tech companies to introduce more sophisticated filter systems to protect people from exposure

to content that could be deemed harmful. Ofcom will ensure platforms are upholding their terms of service.

Meanwhile, concerns over censorship continue. An amendment to the bill introduced this week would make sharing videos that showed migrants crossing the channel between France and the UK in "a positive light" illegal. Tech companies would be required to proactively prevent users from seeing this content.

There has also been tension between digital rights groups and child safety groups over the topic of encryption. In a letter to the government in November, over 70 organizations, including cybersecurity experts, presented their concerns over the wording of the bill. They were worried that it posed a threat to end-to-end encryption, forcing tech companies to create backdoors that could be exploited by criminals.

Representatives for Meta, Twitter, Google and Pinterest didn't respond to individual requests for comment about their positions on the bill.

War, iran: feb3 Iran Formally Blames Israel for Drone Attack in Isfahan

US Says F-16 Deal Contingent on Turkey's Support for NATO Expansion

Markets, government, energy: feb3 Shell announced a $4 billion share buyback program

- Shell announced a $4 billion share buyback program, which is expected to be completed by its first-quarter 2023 results, and a 15% dividend per share increase for the fourth quarter

British oil giant Shell on Thursday posted its highest-ever annual profit, bolstered by soaring fossil fuel prices and robust demand since Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine last year.

Shell reported adjusted earnings of $39.9 billion for the full-year 2022. This comfortably surpasses the $28.4 billion in 2008 which Shell said was the firm's previous annual record and is more than double the firm's full-year 2021 profit of $19.29 billion.

War, middle east, energy: feb3 Italy 'complicit' in crimes for renewing pact with Libya: NGOs

Human Rights Watch (HRW) on Wednesday warned that "assisting Libya's coast guard, knowing that it will facilitate the return of thousands of people to serious human rights violations, makes Italy and the European Union complicit in such crimes".

A June 2022 report by the United Nations Independent Fact-Finding Mission on Libya found that migrants faced "murder, enforced disappearance, torture, enslavement, sexual violence, rape, and other inhumane acts … in connection with their arbitrary detention".

War, Erdogan: feb3 Police Ban Planned Quran Burning Protest in Norway

"The police emphasise that burning the Quran is a legal political statement in Norway, but this event can't go ahead

due to security concerns," Oslo police Inspector Martin Strand said in a statement on Thursday.

Stats, rome, readlater, journal: feb2 non-land owners, or tenants, weren't allowed to leave their territories..

It henceforth became illegal for a peasant — the rule applied only toTHe'TuHPp
7)pulation, since they alone were registered in the'" census and paid the poll tax—
to. .leave his registered domicile. How ffifcMotmcile was defined depended on the form of the census records. In Egypt the rural population was registered by villages, and a man's legal origo was therefore his village. Elsewhere also freeholders were normally registered in their villages, but, tenants
THE CLASSES 69
in many provinces by their farms under the heading of the land- Jwnerrthisis the system Found in the epigraphic census records of Asia Minor. T his me ant jn effect that the tenant was bound to his .particular farm a nd thus, to . his landlord . The tie was hereditary, ifdr orlgo h.^ always been determined by paternity and not by I residence: in the census records children, even infants, are regis-j tiered, although they paid no poll tax, with the evident implication j that they belonged to their parent's place of registration and would inrdue course pay their poll tax there. 59

https://archive.org/details/JonesLaterRomanEmpire01/page/n1/mode/1up?view=theater

Stats, rome, history, church, journal: roman religion exemplifid hilariously by a 14 year old sun worshiper who reigned for only 4 years before being assassinated. He looks so young...

Marcus Aurelius Antoninus (born **Sextus Varius Avitus Bassianus**, c. 204 – 11/12 March 222), better known by his nicknames "**Elagabalus**" (/ˌɛlə'gæbələs/, *EL-ə-GAB-ə-ləs*) and **Heliogabalus** (/ˌhi:liə-, -lioʊ-/ *HEE-lee-ə-, -lee-oh-*[3]), was Roman emperor from 218 to 222, while he was still a teenager. His short reign was conspicuous for sex scandals and religious controversy. A close relative to the Severan dynasty, he came from a prominent Arab family in Emesa (Homs), Syria, where since his early youth he served as head priest of the sun god Elagabal. After the death of his cousin, the emperor Caracalla, Elagabalus was raised to the principate at 14 years of age in an army revolt instigated by his grandmother Julia Maesa against Caracalla's short-lived successor, Macrinus. He only posthumously became known by the Latinised name of his god.[a]

Later historians suggest Elagabalus showed a disregard for Roman religious traditions and sexual taboos. He replaced the traditional head of the Roman pantheon, Jupiter, with the deity Elagabal, of whom he had been high priest. He forced leading members of Rome's government to participate in religious rites celebrating this deity, presiding over them in person. He married four women, including a Vestal Virgin, in addition to lavishing favours on male courtiers thought to have been his lovers.[5][6] He was also reported to have prostituted himself.[7] His behavior estranged the Praetorian Guard, the Senate and the common people alike. Amidst growing opposition, at just 18 years of age he was assassinated and replaced by his cousin Severus Alexander in March 222. The assassination plot against Elagabalus was devised by Julia Maesa and carried out by disaffected members of the Praetorian Guard.

Elagabalus developed a reputation among his contemporaries for extreme eccentricity, decadence, zealotry and sexual promiscuity. (not surprising for his age considering his age and that he wasn't even supposed to rule)

. Edward Gibbon, notably, wrote that Elagabalus "abandoned himself to the grossest pleasures with ungoverned fury".[8] According to Barthold Georg Niebuhr, "the name Elagabalus is branded in history above all others" because of his "unspeakably disgusting life".[9] An example of a modern historian's assessment is Adrian Goldsworthy's: "Elagabalus was not a tyrant, but he was an incompetent, probably the least able emperor Rome had ever had."[10] Despite near-universal condemnation of his reign, some scholars write warmly about him.

Elagabalus's family held hereditary rights to the priesthood of the sun god Elagabal, of whom Elagabalus was the high priest at Emesa (modern Homs) in Roman Syria as part of the Arab Emesene dynasty

Since the reign of Septimius Severus, sun worship had increased throughout the Empire.[64] At the end of 220, Elagabalus instated Elagabal as the chief deity of the Roman pantheon, possibly on the date of the winter solstice.[45] In his official titulature, Elagabalus was then entitled in Latin: *sacerdos amplissimus dei invicti Soli Elagabali, pontifex maximus*, lit. 'highest priest of the unconquered god, the Sun Elgabal, supreme pontiff'.[45] That a foreign god should be honored above Jupiter, with Elagabalus himself as chief priest, shocked many Romans.[65]

As a token of respect for Roman religion, however, Elagabalus joined either Astarte, Minerva, Urania, or some combination of the three to Elagabal as consort.[66] A union between Elagabal and a traditional goddess would have served to strengthen ties between the new religion and the imperial cult. There may have been an effort to introduce Elagabal, Urania, and Athena as the new Capitoline Triad of Rome—replacing Jupiter, Juno, and Minerva.[67]

He aroused further discontent when he married the Vestal Virgin Aquilia Severa, Vesta's high priestess, claiming the marriage would produce "godlike children".[68] This was a flagrant breach of Roman law and tradition, which held that any Vestal found to have engaged in sexual intercourse was to be buried alive.[69]

A lavish temple called the Elagabalium was built on the east face of the Palatine Hill to house Elagabal,[70] who was represented by a black conical meteorite from Emesa.[44] This was a *baetylus*. Herodian wrote "this stone is worshipped as though it were sent from heaven; on it there are some small projecting pieces and markings that are pointed out,

which the people would like to believe are a rough picture of the sun, because this is how they see them".[71]

Dio writes that in order to increase his piety as high priest of Elagabal atop a new Roman pantheon, Elagabalus had himself circumcised and swore to abstain from swine.[70] He forced senators to watch while he danced circling the altar of Elagabal to the accompaniment of drums and cymbals.[71] Each summer solstice he held a festival dedicated to the god, which became popular with the masses because of the free food distributed on these occasions.[72] During this festival, Elagabalus placed the black stone on a chariot adorned with gold and jewels, which he paraded through the city:[73]

A six horse chariot carried the divinity, the horses huge and flawlessly white, with expensive gold fittings and rich ornaments. No one held the reins, and no one rode in the chariot; the vehicle was escorted as if the god himself were the charioteer. Elagabalus ran backward in front of the chariot, facing the god and holding the horses' reins. He made the whole journey in this reverse fashion, looking up into the face of his god.[74]

The most sacred relics from the Roman religion were transferred from their respective shrines to the Elagabalium, including the emblem of the Great Mother, the fire of Vesta, the Shields of the Salii, and the Palladium, so that no other god could be worshipped except in association with Elagabal.[75] Although his native cult was widely ridiculed by contemporaries, sun-worship was popular among the soldiers and would be promoted by several later emperors.[76]

more on roman religion

It is perhaps Diocletian’s greatest achievement that he reigned twenty-one years and then abdicated voluntarily, and spent the remaining years of his life in peaceful retirement. How he achieved this remarkable result it is more difficult to divine. It is easy to say that the empire was weary of civil war. It had long been weary of civil wars, but they had continued unabated, and Diocletian himself had to deal with two serious

rebellions, that of Carausius and Allectus in Britain and that of Domitius Domitianus in Egypt. Stress has been laid on Diocletian's introduction of oriental court ceremonial and his claim, in the assumption of the title lovius, to Vguasi-divinity. He was, according to Aurelius Victor and Eutropius, ,~theffirst'Romanxmpero.rto ^ likea god ora'Persian' king,, from those who approached him, instead of the customary ' saiutatio, and he probably introduced the practice, castigated by one - offthe authors of the Historia Augusta, of living in seclusion and
only rarely appearing to the public, vested in the gorgeous robe

page 70 seems to give a lot of info on roman religion before the dominance of christianity

Galerius' dominions the persecution, which was doubtless as rigorous, was abruptly called off on 30 April 311, when the emperor, who had contracted a painful disease which he apparently attributed to the vengeance of the Christian God, issued an edict explicitly granting toleration to the Christians. He died a few days later, but his edict was observed both by Licinius in the European provinces which he occupied, and by Maximin in Asia Minor; the latter extended its application to his own original dominions, the Oriental diocese. The convicts were released and the churches reopened, and the Christians joyfully celebrated their victory. 70
They were, however, premature in their rejoicings, for before six months were out Maximin, who had evidently accepted Galerius' edict of toleration with reluctance, was reopening hostilities. This time the campaign was more subtle. In the autumn of 311 the authorities of Nicomedia, the imperial residence, petitioned the emperor that no Christian might be allowed to live in their territory. Maximin graciously acceded to their request, and other cities fol- lowed suit, including Antioch and Tyre. Soon whole provinces were making similar petitions ; we possess a copy of that drawn up by the provincial council of Lycia and Pamphylia. Maximin also waged a vigorous propaganda campaign against Christianity, posting up in public places the spurious Acts of Pilate, and in- structing that they be taught in all schools, and publishing the confessions of formerly Christian women that they had taken part in incestuous orgies. He furthermore endeavoured to revivify paganism by appointing a high priest for each city to supervise the other priests and see that sacrifices were daily offered to the gods, and in each province a superior high priest to supervise those of the cities. These official priests had authority to ban Christian worship, public or private, and to arrest Christians and hand them over to the provincial governor if they refused to sacrifice. Maximin at first enforced these measures by hard labour in the mines, but later re- introduced the death penalty. This persecution was relaxed by an edict issued in the winter of 312-13, and finally called off in the spring of 313, immediately before Maximin's defeat and death. 71
There is no reason to doubt that the motive of the persecution was, as Galerius and Maximin state in several edicts, religious. Both these two emperors, who were the prime movers of the policy, were by all accounts convinced and fanatical pagans, and no doubt sincerely wished to restore the traditional worship of the gods in accordance with 'the ancient laws and public discipline of the Romans'. They do not seem, however, to have had much popular

or the first fourteen years of his reign Diocletian maintained the tacit toleration of Christianity which Galhenus had inaugurated. As the memories of persecution faded, the Christians gained self- confidence, and ventured to build fine churches in conspicuous positions : the church at Nicomedia faced the imperial palace, and was an

edifice of some architectural pretensions. Many Christians served in the army and in the civil service, and some reached positions of importance, such as provincial governorships : we hear of one Adauctus who was magister rei privatae and rationalis sum- marum. The membership of the church increased, and more persons of the upper classes joined; a Christian council in Spain had to rule how far a Christian might conform to pagan usage, if he became duumvir of his city, or was elected to the high-priesthood of the provincial imperial cult. 65
It was probably in 298 that an incident occurred which broke the peace. At a sacrifice held in the presence of Diocletian and his Caesar Galerius the haruspices were unable to obtain the desired omens, and attributed their failure to Christians present, who were averting the power of the demons by making the sign of the Cross. Diocletian, who seems to have been a man of rather old-fashioned piety — he had adopted the old Roman god Jupiter Optimus Maximus as his patron — was naturally infuriated by this insolent interruption of the traditional rites of the Roman state, and issued an order that all soldiers must sacrifice to the gods or be discharged. This order created little stir — the numbers involved were probably relatively small — and nothing further happened for five years . Then in 303 the storm broke. It is somewhat mysterious why action should have been so long postponed, or why such strong measures should have been taken after the long delay. Lactantius is probably right in regarding the Caesar Galerius, who was a rabid pagan, as the prime mover in the affair, and it would seem that he had some difficulty in inducing Diocletian to take action. 66
On 23 February 303 an edict was published at Nicomedia ordering all copies of the Scriptures to be surrendered and burnt, all churches to be demolished or dismantled, and forbidding meetings for Christian worship. The church at Nicomedia was promptly demolished by a squad of troops. Next day a supple- mentary edict was posted depriving all Christians who failed to conform of any rank that they might hold (thus making them liable to torture and summary execution), and debarring all Christrian from bringing actions in the courts; imperial freedmen who remained Christian were reduced to slavery. These edicts were promulgated in the West also, and were strictly enforced by, page 71

https://archive.org/details/JonesLaterRomanEmpire01/page/n41/mode/2up?q=god

History, rome, stats: trade route between Rome and India: Roman trade in the subcontinent according to the Periplus Maris Erythraei 1st

century CE

Roman imperial cult: read later, roman religion. said something that stood out in the short time reading: that romans believed some humans could ascend to god status in the afterlife

Roman Egypt: was a subdivision of the Roman Empire from Rome's invasion of the Ptolemaic Egyptian Kingdom after the battle of Alexandria in 30 BC to its loss by the Byzantine Empire to the Islamic conquests in AD 641

Egypt came to serve as a major producer of grain for the empire and had a highly developed urban economy. Aegyptus was by far the wealthiest Eastern Roman province,[2][3] and by far the wealthiest Roman province outside of Italy.[4] The population of Roman Egypt is unknown, although estimates vary from 4 to 8 million.[1] Alexandria, its capital, was the largest port and second largest city of the Roman Empire. [5][6]

After the Assassination of Julius Caesar in 44 BC, the Ptolemaic Kingdom (r. 305–30 BC), which had ruled Egypt since the Wars of Alexander the Great brought an end to Achaemenid Egypt (the Thirty-first Dynasty), took the side of Mark Antony in the last war of the Roman Republic, against the eventual victor Octavian, who

as Augustus became the first Roman emperor in 27 BC, having defeated Mark Antony and the pharaoh, Cleopatra VII, at the naval Battle of Actium.[7] After the deaths of Antony and Cleopatra, the Roman Republic annexed the Ptolemaic Kingdom of Egypt.[7] Augustus and many subsequent emperors ruled Egypt as the Roman pharaohs.[7] The Ptolemaic institutions were dismantled, and though some bureaucratic elements were maintained the government administration was wholly reformed along with the social structure.[7] The Graeco-Egyptian legal system of the Hellenistic period continued in use, but within the bounds of Roman law.[7] The tetradrachm coinage minted at the Ptolemaic capital of Alexandria continued to be the currency of an increasingly monetized economy, but its value was made equal to the Roman *denarius*.[7] The priesthoods of the Ancient Egyptian deities and Hellenistic religions of Egypt kept most of their temples and privileges, and in turn the priests also served the Roman imperial cult of the deified emperors and their families.[7]

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Roman_Egypt

Stats, journal, war: feb2 Edward Nicolae Luttwak, cool guy who writes cool stuff about geopolitics https://www.jstor.org/stable/j.ctvjhzrf5

Tech, china, ai, stats: feb2 In a first, China knocks U.S. from top spot in global patent race, 2020

According to the WIPO data, China’s Huawei Technologies [HWT.UL], the world’s biggest maker of telecoms equipment, was the top corporate patent filer for the third consecutive year.

The United States has called on countries to ban Huawei equipment from new mobile phone networks, arguing that its technology could be used by China for spying. Huawei denies that its technology poses a security risk.

Asked to what extent China’s lead was due to state subsidies, Gurry said: “It’s a model which does use state

subsidies to a greater extent perhaps than Western economies might typically use state subsidies. So yes it certainly plays role.

Tech, ai: feb2 chatgpt offering free trial membership to all now. The last time that I actually looked into it, I don't think it was open to everyone as they were recieving too many request at once. Great to see that this has changED, but as is always, I'm late because I'm lazing and stuck in a bubble.

We are excited to introduce ChatGPT to get users' feedback and learn about its strengths and weaknesses. During the research preview, usage of ChatGPT is free. Try it now at chat.openai.com.

https://openai.com/blog/chatgpt/

started doing the $42 monthly membership on jan22
https://interestingengineering.com/innovation/chatgpt-premium-rolls-out

History, church: The Portadown massacre took place in November 1641 at Portadown, County Armagh, during the Irish Rebellion of 1641. Irish Catholic rebels, likely under the command of Toole McCann, killed about 100 British Protestant settlers by forcing them off the

bridge into the River Bann, and shooting those who tried to swim to safety.

The **Portadown massacre** took place in November 1641 at Portadown, County Armagh, during the Irish Rebellion of 1641. Irish Catholic rebels, likely under the command of Toole McCann, killed about 100 British Protestant settlers by forcing them off the bridge into the River Bann, and shooting those who tried to swim to safety.

The Irish rebellion had broken out in Ulster on 23 October 1641. It began as an attempted *coup d'état* by Catholic gentry and military officers, who tried to seize control of the English administration in Ireland. They wanted to force King Charles I to negotiate an end to anti-Catholic discrimination, greater Irish self-governance, and to partially or fully reverse the plantations of Ireland. Many of those involved in the rebellion had lost their ancestral lands over the past thirty years in the plantation of Ulster.

Most of the land at Portadown had belonged to the McCanns (*Mac Cana*), a Gaelic clan. As part of the plantation, this land was confiscated by the English Crown and colonized by English and Scottish Protestant settlers.[1] Rebels, including the McCanns,[1] captured Portadown on the first day of the rebellion along with nearby settlements such as Tandragee and Charlemont.[2]

Twenty-eight people made statements about the incident, but only one of them witnessed it. The others related what they had heard about it, including possibly from some of the rebels themselves.[4]

William Clarke, the only survivor, stated that he had been held in a prison camp at Loughgall, where many of the prisoners were mistreated and some subjected to half-hangings.[4] The rebels in the Loughgall area were commanded by Manus O'Cane.[5] Clarke states that he and about 100 other prisoners were marched six miles to the bridge over the River Bann at Portadown.[4] The wooden bridge had been broken in the middle. Threatened with swords and pikes, Clarke states the prisoners were stripped, then forced off the bridge and into the cold river below. Those who tried to swim to safety were shot with muskets. Clarke claimed he was able to escape by bribing the rebels.[4][5]

Cromwell in the Battle of Naseby in 1645 as depicted in a portrait by Charles Landseer

In ancient times, Yemen was the home of the Sabaeans,[10][11][12] a trading state that included parts of modern-day Ethiopia and Eritrea. Later in 275 AD, the Himyarite Kingdom was influenced by Judaism.[13] Christianity arrived in the fourth century. Islam spread quickly in the seventh century and Yemenite troops were crucial in the early Islamic conquests.[14] Several dynasties emerged in the 9th to 16th centuries, such as the Rasulid dynasty.[15] The country was divided between the Ottoman and British empires in the 1800s. The Zaydi Mutawakkilite Kingdom of Yemen was established after World War I before the creation of the Yemen Arab Republic in 1962. South Yemen remained a British protectorate as the Aden Protectorate until 1967 when it became an independent state and later, a Marxist-Leninist state. The two Yemeni states united to form the modern Republic of Yemen (*al-*

Jumhūrīyah al-Yamanīyah) in 1990. President Ali Abdullah Saleh was the first president of the new republic until his resignation in 2012 in the wake of the Arab Spring.[16][17]

Since 2011, Yemen has been in a state of political crisis starting with street protests against poverty, unemployment, corruption, and president Saleh's plan to amend Yemen's constitution and eliminate the presidential term limit.[18] President Saleh stepped down and the powers of the presidency were transferred to Abdrabbuh Mansur Hadi. Since then, the country has been in a civil war (alongside the Saudi Arabian-led military intervention aimed at restoring Hadi's government against Iran-backed Houthi rebels) with several proto-state entities claiming to govern Yemen: the Cabinet of Yemen/Presidential Leadership Council, Supreme Political Council, and the Southern Transitional Council.[19][20][21][22][23]

At least 56,000 civilians and combatants have been killed in armed violence in Yemen since January 2016.[24] The war has resulted in a famine affecting 17 million people.[25] The lack of safe drinking water, caused by depleted aquifers and the destruction of the country's water infrastructure, has also caused the largest, fastest-spreading cholera outbreak in modern history, with the number of suspected cases exceeding 994,751.[26][27] Over 2,226 people have died since the outbreak began to spread rapidly at the end of April 2017.[27][28] The ongoing humanitarian crisis and conflict has received widespread criticism for having a dramatic worsening effect on Yemen's humanitarian situation, that some say has reached the level of a "humanitarian disaster"[29] and some have even labelled it as a genocide.[30][31][32] It has worsened the country's already-poor human rights situation.

127,000 non-combat English and Welsh deaths (including some 40,000 civilians)[a]

Total: 500,000+ dead

War, Erdogan: feb2 Several European Consulates Shut Down Over Istanbul Terror Threats

The governments of Germany, the UK, and the Netherlands closed down their consulates in Istanbul, Turkiye, this week after the US State Department issued an “immediate” terror threat on 30 January.

The warnings were issued in response to recent Quran burnings in Sweden, the Netherlands, and Denmark.

“The German Consulate General will remain closed today, February 1, for security reasons,” the German consulate posted on its Instagram page.

Meanwhile, the British Foreign and Commonwealth Office updated the terror alert on its page, saying, “There is a potential that citizens from Western countries may be targets or caught up in attacks, particularly in the major cities.”

On Monday, the US State Department warned of an “imminent” terror threat targeting western states’ synagogues, churches, and diplomatic missions.

The US mission in Turkiye warned its citizen to avoid the Beyoglu, Galata, Taksim, and Istiklal areas of Istanbul.

In response to the Quran burning in Sweden on 21 January, the Turkish government canceled a planned visit by the Swedish Minister of Defense’s visit to Ankara.

“Defense Minister Jonson’s visit to Turkiye on January 27 is neither important nor meaningful. That is why we canceled the visit,” Turkish Defense Minister Hulusi Akar said.

Germany, UK, Follow Netherlands in Closing Istanbul Consulates Over Terror Threat

https://balkaninsight.com/2023/02/01/germany-uk-follow-netherlands-in-closing-istanbul-consulates-over-terror-threat/

War, sanctions, crypto: feb2 Crypto Community Mocks Charlie Munger Over Obsession With China's Bitcoin Ban

The online community has expressed bewilderment over how China's crypto ban aligns with the United States' proclaimed principles of freedom...

The cryptocurrency community has ridiculed well-known Bitcoin critic Charlie Munger, vice chairman of Berkshire Hathaway, for calling the United States to follow in the footsteps of China and ban crypto.

In an op-ed article in The Wall Street Journal, the 99-year-old investment veteran has once again slammed crypto, calling a cryptocurrency a "gambling contract with a nearly 100% edge for the house."

Munger also said that a cryptocurrency is "not a currency, not a commodity, and not a security," adding that "obviously" the U.S. should enact a new federal law that would ban crypto.

According to Munger, the best way to approach crypto is to follow the example of China, which put a blanket ban on crypto in September 2021.

The Berkshire Hathaway vice chairman stated:

"What should the U.S. do after a ban of cryptocurrencies is in place? Well, one more action might make sense: **Thank the Chinese communist leader for his splendid example of uncommon sense.**"

The community was quick to react to Munger's latest anti-crypto arguments, with many expressing bewilderment about how measures like China's crypto ban stack up with the United States' proclamations that it supports freedom.

"The battle lines are being drawn. Freedom or tyranny. Non-custodial wallets are the hill we can't surrender," *NFT APE* author Adam McBride wrote on Twitter.

Others also mocked Munger for not understanding that crypto is virtually unbannable.

Indeed, even after “banning” crypto in 2021, China has continued to be the second-largest Bitcoin miner in the world, and possessing crypto is apparently still legal.

Moreover, the idea of lifting the crypto ban has been floating around in China for a while.

Vaccine, censorship: feb2 MSNBC Anchor Hospitalized With Severe Myocarditis, Pericarditis

Yasmin Vossoughian said that the health scare started on Dec. 20 when she started to experience chest pains that “waxed and waned over a period of 10 days.” Those pains “continued to get worse” over the coming days, she added.

War: feb2 NOW THEY'RE SAYING THEY FOUND NO MISUSE OF FUNDS AFTER VIRTUALLY WEEKS OF HEADLINES COMPLAINING ABOUT UKRAINIAN CORRUPTION AHEAD OF AND DURING THE MOST RECENT ROUND OF FUNDING FROM THE UNITED STATES TO UKRAINE

Ukraine rises in Corruption Perceptions Index

IRYNA BALACHUK — TUESDAY, 31 JANUARY 2023, 12:07

9

31251

Stats, middle east: feb2 Between 2015 and 2021, the United States sent 54.2 billion dollars in weapons and services to Saudi Arabia and the UAE, according to data acquired from the Defense Security Cooperation Agency. In addition, the Department of Defense provided 644 million dollars for military training to Saudi Arabia and the UAE, almost entirely through the Foreign Military Sales program. The DoD uses acquisition and cross-servicing agreements to

bill nations for logistical support and items ranging from flying hours, fuel, and bombs. Saudi Arabia paid the United States 157 million dollars in flying hours

Houthis still control Sanaa and AQAP is still active in Yemen. The UN Security Council approved a resolution to blockade Yemen every year since 2015 to prevent arms from flooding the conflict; however, the embargo has only succeeded in starving the Yemenis into famine.

stats, war, middle east: feb2 WikiLeaks Yemen Files

War: feb2 Ex-UK Minister: NATO Should Consider Ground Troops in Ukraine

“I think that is something we now have to consider, certainly if you were to put a NATO force in there,” Gerald Howarth told Sky News when asked if he was suggesting NATO boots on the ground in Ukraine.

War, stats: feb2 Yemen is of significant strategic interest as Yemen controls a narrow choke-point to the Red Sea and the Suez Canal through which 11% of the world's petroleum passes each day

In addition, Yemen borders Saudi Arabia (to the north) and Oman (to the east) and has access to the Arabian Sea, through which another 20% of the world's petroleum passes from the Strait of Hormuz (including the oil of Saudi Arabia and Iran). Saudi Arabia seeks to control a port in Yemen to avoid the potential constriction of its oil shipments by by Iran along the Strait of Hormuz or by countries which can control its other oil shipment path along the Red Sea.

The Yemen Files offer documentary evidence of the US arming, training and funding of Yemeni forces in the years building up to the war. The documents reveal, among other things, procurement of many different weapon types:

aircraft, vessels, vehicles, proposals for maritime border security control and Yemeni procurement of US biometric systems.

A US presence remained in the country until February 2015, when the US closed its embassy due to the continuing unrest between different factions in the country. The war broke out a month later.

read later: rome, history, fall of rome: Diocletian's reign stabilized the empire and ended the Crisis of the Third Century

appointed fellow officer Maximian as *Augustus*, co-emperor, in 286. Diocletian reigned in the Eastern Empire, and Maximian reigned in the Western Empire. Diocletian delegated further on 1 March 293, appointing Galerius and Constantius as junior colleagues (each with the title *Caesar*), under himself and Maximian respectively. Under the Tetrarchy, or "rule of four", each tetrarch would rule over a quarter-division of the empire. Diocletian secured the empire's borders and purged it of all threats to his power. He defeated the Sarmatians and Carpi during several campaigns between 285 and 299, the Alamanni in 288, and usurpers in Egypt between 297 and 298. Galerius, aided by Diocletian, campaigned successfully against Sassanid Persia, the empire's traditional enemy. In 299, he sacked their capital, Ctesiphon. Diocletian led the subsequent negotiations and achieved a lasting and favorable peace.

The Diocletianic Persecution (303–312), the empire's last, largest, and bloodiest official persecution of Christianity, failed to eliminate Christianity in the empire. After 324, Christianity became the empire's preferred religion under Constantine. Despite these failures and challenges, Diocletian's reforms fundamentally changed the structure of the Roman imperial government and helped stabilize the empire economically and militarily, enabling the empire to remain essentially intact for another 150 years despite being near the brink of collapse in Diocletian's youth. Weakened by illness, Diocletian left the imperial office on 1 May 305, becoming the first Roman emperor to abdicate the position voluntarily. He lived out his retirement in his palace on the Dalmatian coast, tending to his vegetable gardens. His palace eventually became the core of the modern-day city of Split in Croatia.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Diocletian

read this later: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Roman_diocese#:~:text=In%20the%20Late%20Roman%20Empire,dioceses%20they%20were%20resident%20in).

Markets: feb2 Orange Juice Futures Hit New Record High Amid Supply Squeeze

"I almost put the Orange Juice back at Walmart today. **These prices are out of hand**."

Markets, government: feb2 **Meta Explodes 18% Higher On Solid Beat, Massive $40 Billion Buyback Boost**

tech, ai: Generative AI Explained... By AI

After years of research, it appears that artificial intelligence (AI) is reaching a sort of tipping point, capturing the imaginations of everyone from students saving time on their essay writing to leaders at the world's largest tech companies. Excitement is building around the possibilities that AI tools unlock, but what exactly these tools are capable of and how they work is still not widely understood.

We *could* write about this in detail, but given how advanced tools like ChatGPT have become, it only seems right to see what generative AI has to say about itself.

As Visual Capitalist's Nick Routley explains, **everything in the infographic above – from illustrations and icons to the text descriptions—was created using generative AI tools such as Midjourney.**

Everything that follows in this article was generated using ChatGPT based on specific prompts.

Without further ado, generative AI as explained by generative AI.

WHAT IS
GENERATIVE AI?
VISUALLY EXPLAINED... BY GENERATIVE AI
ChatGPT, DALL-E, MidJourney, DeepMind—generative AI technologies have exploded into mainstream consciousness. With access to these technologies increasing day-by-day, we asked AI to help demonstrate the power and influence of this new tech trend.
This robot—and all the visuals in this infographic, including icons—were generated using AI software like MidJourney and DALL-E.
The text captions were also generated using AI (ChatGPT).
Generative AI is a type of artificial intelligence (AI) that uses machine learning algorithms to create new and original content like images, videos, text, and audio.
1 Forming a Database
A neural network, consisting of various information or media files like images, text, data, sounds, etc., forms the basis of artificial intelligence.
2 Inputting a Prompt
The user provides the AI with a description or sample of the desired content...
Prompts can be any user-submitted material, like words, numbers, or photos.
3 Generating Content
...and the AI uses its neural network to generate new examples that are similar to the ones it has trained from.
Examples of Generative AI Technology
ChatGPT
text generation AI
INPUT PROMPTS
"Write a limerick about data taking over the world. Include the word egg"
OUTPUT
"Data taking over the world, it's true
It's growing like an egg that's due
It's everywhere we go
It's taking over slow
But it's the future, there's nothing we can do."
Real-Life Applications of this Platform
• communications, journalism, publishing, creative writing, writing assistance
MidJourney
image generation AI
INPUT PROMPTS
• a rabbit wearing a sunhat
• Santa Claus in a blue outfit
• a watercolor of a red bicycle in front of a waterfall
OUTPUT
Real-Life Applications of this Platform
• advertisements, published illustrations, corporate visuals, novel image generation
Codex
computer coding generation AI
INPUT PROMPTS
"Write script to change a website's background color in Python"
OUTPUT
import requests
from bs4 import BeautifulSoup
Real-Life Applications of this Platform
• web design, software development, coding/scripting, technology
VISUAL CAPITALIST
RESEARCH, WRITING AND DESIGN Mark Bohan

Generative AI: An Introduction

Generative AI refers to a category of artificial intelligence (AI) algorithms that generate new outputs based on the data they have been trained on. Unlike traditional AI systems that are designed to recognize patterns and make predictions, generative AI creates new content in the form of images, text, audio, and more.

Generative AI uses a type of deep learning called generative adversarial networks (GANs) to create new content. A GAN consists of two neural networks: a generator that creates new data and a discriminator that evaluates the data. The generator and discriminator work together, with the generator improving its outputs based on the feedback it receives from the discriminator until it generates content that is indistinguishable from real data.

Generative AI has a wide range of applications, including:

- **Images:** Generative AI can create new images based on existing ones, such as creating a new portrait based on a person's face or a new landscape based on existing scenery
- **Text:** Generative AI can be used to write news articles, poetry, and even scripts. It can also be used to translate text from one language to another
- **Audio:** Generative AI can generate new music tracks, sound effects, and even voice acting

Disrupting Industries

People have concerns that generative AI and automation will lead to job displacement and unemployment, as machines become capable of performing tasks that were previously done by humans. They worry that the increasing use of AI will lead to a shrinking job market, particularly in industries such as manufacturing, customer service, and data entry.

Generative AI has the potential to disrupt several industries, including:

- **Advertising:** Generative AI can create new advertisements based on existing ones, making it easier for companies to reach new audiences
- **Art and Design:** Generative AI can help artists and designers create new works by generating new ideas and concepts
- **Entertainment:** Generative AI can create new video games, movies, and TV shows, making it easier for content creators to reach new audiences

Overall, while there are valid concerns about the impact of AI on the job market, there are also many potential benefits that could positively impact workers and the economy.

In the short term, generative AI tools can have positive impacts on the job market as well. For example, AI can automate repetitive and time-consuming

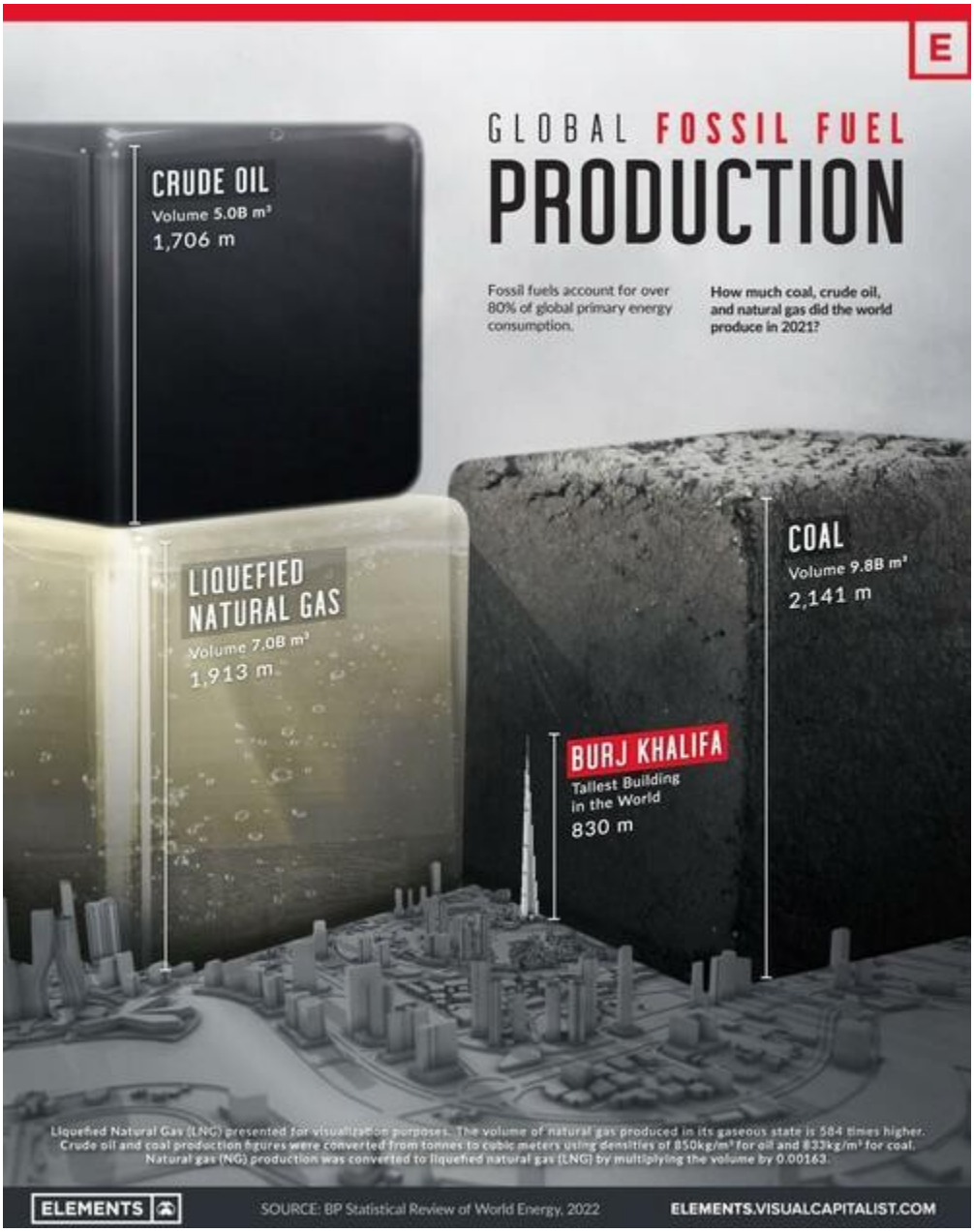
tasks, and help humans make faster and more informed decisions by processing and analyzing large amounts of data. AI tools can free up time for humans to focus on more creative and value-adding work.

How This Article Was Created

This article was created using a language model AI trained by OpenAI. The AI was trained on a large dataset of text and was able to generate a new article based on the prompt given. In simple terms, the AI was fed information about what to write about and then generated the article based on that information.

In conclusion, generative AI is a powerful tool that has the potential to revolutionize several industries. With its ability to create new content based on existing data, generative AI has the potential to change the way we create and consume content in the future.

Government, china: feb2 **"Worst Payouts Since The Financial Crisis": Asia's Investment Bankers See Pay Cuts Up To 70%**


GLOBAL FOSSIL FUEL
PRODUCTION
Fossil fuels account for over 80% of global primary energy consumption.
How much coal, crude oil, and natural gas did the world produce in 2021?
CRUDE OIL
Volume 5.0B m³
1,706 m
LIQUEFIED NATURAL GAS
Volume 7.0B m³
1,913 m
COAL
Volume 9.8B m³
2,141 m
BURJ KHALIFA
Tallest Building in the World
830 m
Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) presented for visualization purposes. The volume of natural gas produced in its gaseous state is 584 times higher.
Crude oil and coal production figures were converted from tonnes to cubic meters using densities of 850kg/m³ for oil and 833kg/m³ for coal.
Natural gas (NG) production was converted to liquefied natural gas (LNG) by multiplying the volume by 0.00163.
ELEMENTS
SOURCE: BP Statistical Review of World Energy, 2022
ELEMENTS.VISUALCAPITALIST.COM

Vaccine, health, censorship: feb2 **vaccine, censorship: Why Is There A COVID Vaccine Mandate For Students? "I can’t figure out why Stanford is mandating the COVID vaccine for students."**
https://margaretannaalice.substack.com/p/letter-to-the-stanford-daily

Censorship, vaccine, health: feb2 **UN Initiative Targets And Doxxes Doctors And Nurses Who Don't Follow COVID-19 Narrative**

The Nevada State Board of Nursing was inundated with calls for Sirotek's professional demise and flooded with anonymous complaints.

These complaints trace back to Team Halo, a social media influencer campaign formed as part of the United Nations Verified initiative and the Vaccine Confidence Project.

In response, Sirotek filed a police report. Her lawyer sent a cease-and-desist letter. The Epoch Times reviewed the documents.

The reply from the cease-and-desist letter? The client was acting within his First Amendment rights.

The Harassment Begins

In February 2022, Sirotek, as the face of AFLN, a patient advocacy network that boasts 22,000 nurses, appeared before Sen. Ron Johnson (R-Wis.) and testified about the harm patients were experiencing when they sought treatment for COVID-19.

She said she didn't witness patients dying from the novel virus when she volunteered to work the front lines in New York at the start of the pandemic.

Instead, in her opinion, as a medical professional with multiple master's degrees, patients were dying from "negligence" and "medical malfeasance."

Sirotek detailed the withholding by higher-ups of steroids and Ibuprofen and the prescribing of remdesivir. Additionally, there was zero willingness to consider possible early intervention treatments like ivermectin.

As the pandemic continued, such practices only escalated, Sirotek said.

Sirotek's testimony resulted in cheers, widespread attention, and a target on her back.

Sen. Ron Johnson (R-WI) (C) speaks during a panel discussion titled COVID-19: A Second Opinion in Washington DC Jan. 24, 2022. (Drew Angerer/Getty Images)

"**[The harassment] all started the day we got back from DC**," Sirotek said.

At first, the attacks started with the typical "you're transphobic, you're anti-LGBTQ. I mean, they even called me racist," Sirotek, who is Hispanic, recalled.

And as more patients sought AFLN's help, the attacks increased in frequency and force.

At first, Sirotek said the attacks appeared to come from random people. But as the attacks continued, the terms "Project Halo," "Team Halo," and "#TeamHalo" continually cropped up. Especially on TikTok and from two accounts, "@jesss2019" and "@thatsassynp."

"[@thatsassynp] just kept on saying how I was spreading misinformation, [that] ivermectin doesn't work," Sirotek said. "He kept targeting the Nevada State Board of Nursing because I was on the Practice Act Committee, and he did not feel like that was acceptable."

Craig Perry, a lawyer representing nurses, including Sirotek, before the Nevada State Board of Nursing, confirmed Sirotek's account. The executive director of the Nevada State Board of Nursing, Cathy Dinauer, declined to provide details on complaints or investigations, stating to The Epoch Times via email that they are "confidential."

Sirotek said the complaints overwhelmed her ability to defend her nursing license.

“Untimely, they were filing so many complaints against me that [the Nevada State Board of Nursing] had to start filtering them as to what was applicable and not applicable. And [the complaints] just buried my nursing license to the point that we couldn’t even defend it,” Sirotek said.

Attacks Transition to Threats

Whenever Sirotek, or AFLN, tried to set up a community outreach webinar, hateful comments flooded their videos.

Julia McCabe, a registered nurse and the director of advocacy services for AFLN, told The Epoch Times that initially, they tried kicking the trolls out of the outreach videos. But they couldn’t keep up with the overwhelming numbers and had to shut the videos down, usually after only 10 minutes, she said.

To address the swarms, as McCabe labeled them, AFLN started charging an entrance fee for their webinars. But, McCabe said, they’d send out an email with a free access code to all of their subscribers before the webinar started. It helped, but not enough. The swarms kept coming. And the attacks escalated.

On June 5, 2022, @thatsassynp posted a video on TikTok calling for a “serious public uprising,” because the Nevada State Board of Nursing and other regulatory agencies weren’t disciplining nurses for spreading “disinformation.”

It became one of many such videos in the ensuing days. In the comments of one, he stated, “Also, stay tuned as [@jesss2019] will be addressing this as well. We are teaming up (as per usual) to raise awareness and demand action on this issue.” @jesss2019 responded, “Yes!!!! We will get this taken care of.”

Jess and Tyler Kuhk of @thatsassynp have “teamed up” on several occasions, targeting healthcare workers who question the COVID-19 narrative. Team Halo doesn’t officially list Kuhk on its site, but Kuhk posts with the #teamhalo.

In another video, he states, “If you’re new to this series, PLEASE watch the videos in my playlist ‘Nevada board of nursing.’ This started in Feb of this year.” His video has almost 35,000 “loves.”

On June 7, 2022, @jesss2019 posted a video on TikTok accusing Sirotek of spreading misinformation. It included a link to @thatsassynp, and his complaints about Sirotek to the Nevada State Board of Nursing and calls to remove her from the Practice Act Committee. She implored TikTok to boost the message. It, too, became one of many videos attacking Sirotek.

Specifically, @jesss2019 and @thatsassynp took issue with videos and posts from Sirotek, and AFLN, advocating for ivermectin and highlighting possible issues with remdesivir and the COVID-19 vaccines.

@jess2019 removed all of the above videos after The Epoch Times sought comment. The Epoch Times retains copies.

Sirotek says she received the first death threat against herself and her children around the same time, in June 2022.

“They cut off the pictures of my children’s faces from our family photos, where we take them every year on our front porch—we’ve got 11 years of those photos—and they cut them out and put them on the bodies of those little boys that have been sexually abused. And that’s what would get sent to my house. And I gave the police that,” Sirotek said.

In response to a request for comment from The Epoch Times, Sen. Johnson defended Sirotek.

“The COVID Cartel continues to frighten and silence those who tell the truth and challenge their failed response to COVID,” Johnson said. “It is simply wrong for Ms. Sirotek to be smeared and attacked like so many others who have had the courage and compassion to successfully treat COVID patients.”

As the threats continued and escalated, Sirotek also asked Perry to send a cease-and-desist letter to Tyler Kuhk on Aug. 1, 2022.

Kuhk, a nurse practitioner, is the person posting on TikTok under the pseudonym @thatsassynp.

The TikTok logo is pictured outside the company’s U.S. head office in Culver City, California, on Sept. 15, 2020. (Mike Blake/Reuters)

The letter sent to Kuhk alleges that on at least 10 different occasions, @thatsassynp encouraged a “public uprising” against Sirotek. It also details that his videos attacking Sirotek garnered over 400,000 views.

In response, McLetchie Law, a “boutique law firm serving prominent and emerging … media entities” responded to Perry by stating in a letter dated Aug. 16, 2022, “Both Nevada law and the First Amendment provide robust protections for our client’s (and others’) rights to criticize Ms. Sirotek’s

dangerous views and practices—and to advocate for her removal from the Nursing Practice Advisory Committee of the Nevada State Board of Nursing."

It also warned that any attempt to deter Kuhk from his chosen path would "backfire" and could result in a "negative financial impact." Neither Kuhk nor McLetchie Law responded to The Epoch Times' request for comment.

Unable to confirm the real name behind the TikTok account @jesss2019, and thus, unable to send her a legal letter, Sirotek posted some of the threats she'd received on Facebook, pleading for @jesss2019 to cease targeting her, and recognize the possible real-world harm.

In desperation, Sirotek asked Perry to file a legal name change, which he did on Sep. 15, 2022, hoping that would thwart people's ability to look up Sirotek's information. Perry told The Epoch Times, "Usually, when you do a name change, it's a public record. But under extenuating circumstances, you can have that sealed."

In Sirotek's case, the court recognized the threat to her and her family's safety, waived the publication requirement, granted the change, and sealed her record on Oct. 4, 2022.

Sirotek, at the behest of Perry, filed a police report detailing the harassment on Oct. 17, 2022.

In December 2022, @jesss2019 posted a video to TikTok doxing Sirotek by revealing her name change. The Epoch Times sought comment from @jesss2019 but has not received a response. After the request for comment, the user removed the video.

Team Halo and Social Media

On Dec. 17, 2020, Theo Bertram, a director at TikTok; Iain Bundred, the head of public policy at YouTube; and Rebecca Stimson, the UK head of public policy for Facebook, appeared before the UK's House of Commons to explain what their social media sites were doing to combat "anti-vaccination disinformation."

All three stated their companies employed a "two-pronged approach." Specifically, "tackle disinformation and promote trusted content."

Bundred stated that from the beginning of the year to November 2020, YouTube had removed 750,000 videos that promoted "Covid disinformation."

The logos of Facebook, YouTube, TikTok, and Snapchat on mobile devices in a combination of 2017–2022 photos. (AP Photo)

Stimson stated that between March and October 2020, "12 million pieces of content were removed from [Facebook]," and it had labeled 167 million pieces with a warning.

Bertram stated that for the first six months of 2020, TikTok removed 1,500 accounts for "Covid violation" and had recently increased that activity. "In the last two months, we took action against 1,380 accounts, so you can see the level of action is increasing," Bertram said.

"In October, we began work with Team Halo," Bertram added. "I do not know if you are familiar with Team Halo. It is run by the Vaccine Confidence Project at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine and is about getting reliable, trusted scientists and doctors on to social media to spread trusted information."

Team Halo's Origins

On Sep. 20, 2022, Melissa Fleming, the under-secretary-general for global communications at the United Nations, appeared at the World Economic Forum to discuss how the United Nations was "Tackling Disinformation" regarding "health guidance" as well as the "safety and efficacy of the vaccine" for COVID-19.

"**A key strategy that we had was to deploy influencers**," Fleming stated. "Influencers who were really keen, who had huge followings, but really keen to help carry messages that were going to serve their communities."

Fleming also explained that the United Nations knew its messaging wouldn't resonate as well as influencers, so they developed Team Halo.

"We had another trusted messenger project, which was called Team Halo, where we trained scientists around the world, and some doctors, on TikTok. We had

TikTok working with us," Fleming said. "It was a layered deployment of ideas and tactics."

*Read more **here...***

War, sanctions: feb2 read later: escobar says something unbelievable: Realizing NATO's war with Russia will likely end unfavorably, the US is test-driving an exit offer. But why should Moscow take indirect proposals seriously, especially on the eve of its new military advance and while it is in the winning seat?

Those behind the Throne are never more dangerous than when they have their backs against the wall.

Their power is slipping away, fast: Militarily, via NATO's progressive humiliation in Ukraine; Financially, sooner rather than later, most of the Global South will want nothing to do with the currency of a bankrupt rogue giant; Politically, the global majority is taking decisive steps to stop obeying a rapacious, discredited, de facto minority.

So now those behind the Throne are plotting to at least try to stall the incoming disaster on the military front.

As confirmed by a high-level US establishment source, a new directive on NATO vs. Russia in Ukraine was relayed to US Secretary of State Antony Blinken. Blinken, in terms of actual power, is nothing but a messenger boy for the Straussian neocons and neoliberals who actually run US foreign policy.

The secretary of state was instructed to relay the new directive – a sort of message to the Kremlin – via mainstream print media, which was promptly published by the *Washington Post*.

In the elite US mainstream media division of labor, the *New York Times* is very close to the State Department. and the *Washington Post* to the CIA. In this case though the directive was too important, and needed to be relayed by the paper of record in the imperial capital. It was published as an Op-Ed (behind paywall).

The novelty here is that for the first time since the start of Russia's February 2022 Special Military Operation (SMO) in Ukraine, the Americans are actually proposing a variation of the "offer you can't refuse" classic, including some concessions which may satisfy Russia's security imperatives.

Crucially, the US offer totally bypasses Kiev, once again certifying that this is a war against Russia conducted by Empire and its NATO minions – with the Ukrainians as mere expandable proxies.

‘Please don’t go on the offensive’

The *Washington Post’s* old school Moscow-based correspondent John Helmer has provided an important service, offering the full text of Blinken’s offer, of course extensively edited to include fantasist notions such as “US weapons help pulverize Putin’s invasion force” and a cringe-worthy explanation: “In other words, Russia should not be ready to rest, regroup and attack.”

The message from Washington may, at first glance, give the impression that the US would admit Russian control over Crimea, Donbass, Zaporozhye, and Kherson – “the land bridge that connects Crimea and Russia” – as a fait accompli.

Ukraine would have a demilitarized status, and the deployment of HIMARS missiles and Leopard and Abrams tanks would be confined to western Ukraine, kept as a “deterrent against further Russian attacks.”

What may have been offered, in quite hazy terms, is in fact a partition of Ukraine, demilitarized zone included, in exchange for the Russian General Staff cancelling its yet-unknown 2023 offensive, which may be as devastating as cutting off Kiev’s access to the Black Sea and/or cutting off the supply of NATO weapons across the Polish border.

The US offer defines itself as the path towards a “just and durable peace that upholds Ukraine’s territorial integrity.” Well, not really. It just won’t be a rump Ukraine, and Kiev might even retain those western lands that Poland is dying to gobble up.

The possibility of a direct Washington-Moscow deal on “an eventual postwar military balance” is also evoked, including no Ukraine membership of NATO. As for Ukraine itself, the Americans seem to believe it will be a “strong, non-corrupt economy with membership in the European Union.”

Whatever remains of value in Ukraine has already been swallowed not only by its monumentally corrupt oligarchy, but most of all, investors and speculators of the BlackRock variety. Assorted corporate vultures simply cannot afford to lose Ukraine’s grain export ports, as well as the trade deal terms agreed with the EU before the war. And they’re terrified that the Russian offensive may capture Odessa, the major seaport and transportation hub on the Black Sea – which would leave Ukraine landlocked.

There’s no evidence whatsoever that Russian President Vladimir Putin, and the entire Russian Security Council – including its Secretary Nikolai Patrushev and Deputy Chairman Dmitry Medvedev – have reason to believe anything coming from the US establishment, especially via mere minions such as Blinken and the *Washington Post*. After all the *stavka* – a moniker for the high command of

the Russian armed forces – regard the Americans as “non-agreement capable,” even when an offer is in writing.

This walks and talks like a desperate US gambit to stall and present some carrots to Moscow in the hope of delaying or even cancelling the planned offensive of the next few months.

Even old school, dissident Washington operatives – not beholden to the Straussian neocon galaxy – bet that the gambit will be a nothing burger: in classic “strategic ambiguity” mode, the Russians will continue on their stated drive of demilitarization, denazification and de-electrification, and will “stop” anytime and anywhere they see fit east of the Dnieper. Or beyond.

What the Deep State really wants

Washington’s ambitions in this essentially NATO vs. Russia war go well beyond Ukraine. And we’re not even talking about preventing a Russia-China-Germany Eurasian union or a peer competitor nightmare; let’s stick with prosaic issues on the Ukrainian battleground.

The key “recommendations” – military, economic, political, diplomatic – were detailed in an Atlantic Council strategy paper late last year.

And in another one, under “War scenario 1: The war continues in its current tempo,” we find the Straussian neocon policy fully spelled out.

It’s all here: from “marshaling support and military-assistance transfers to Kyiv sufficient to enable it to win” to “increase the lethality of military assistance transferred to include fighter aircraft that would enable Ukraine to control its airspace and attack Russian forces therein; and missile technology with range sufficient to reach into Russian territory.”

From training the Ukrainian military “to use Western weapons, electronic warfare, and offensive and defensive cyber capabilities, and to seamlessly integrate new recruits in the service” to buttressing “defenses on the front lines, near the Donbass region,” including “combat training focusing on irregular warfare.”

Added to “imposing secondary sanctions on all entities doing business with the Kremlin,” we reach of course the Mother of All Plunders: “Confiscate the $300 billion that the Russian state holds in overseas accounts in the United States and EU and use seized monies to fund reconstruction.”

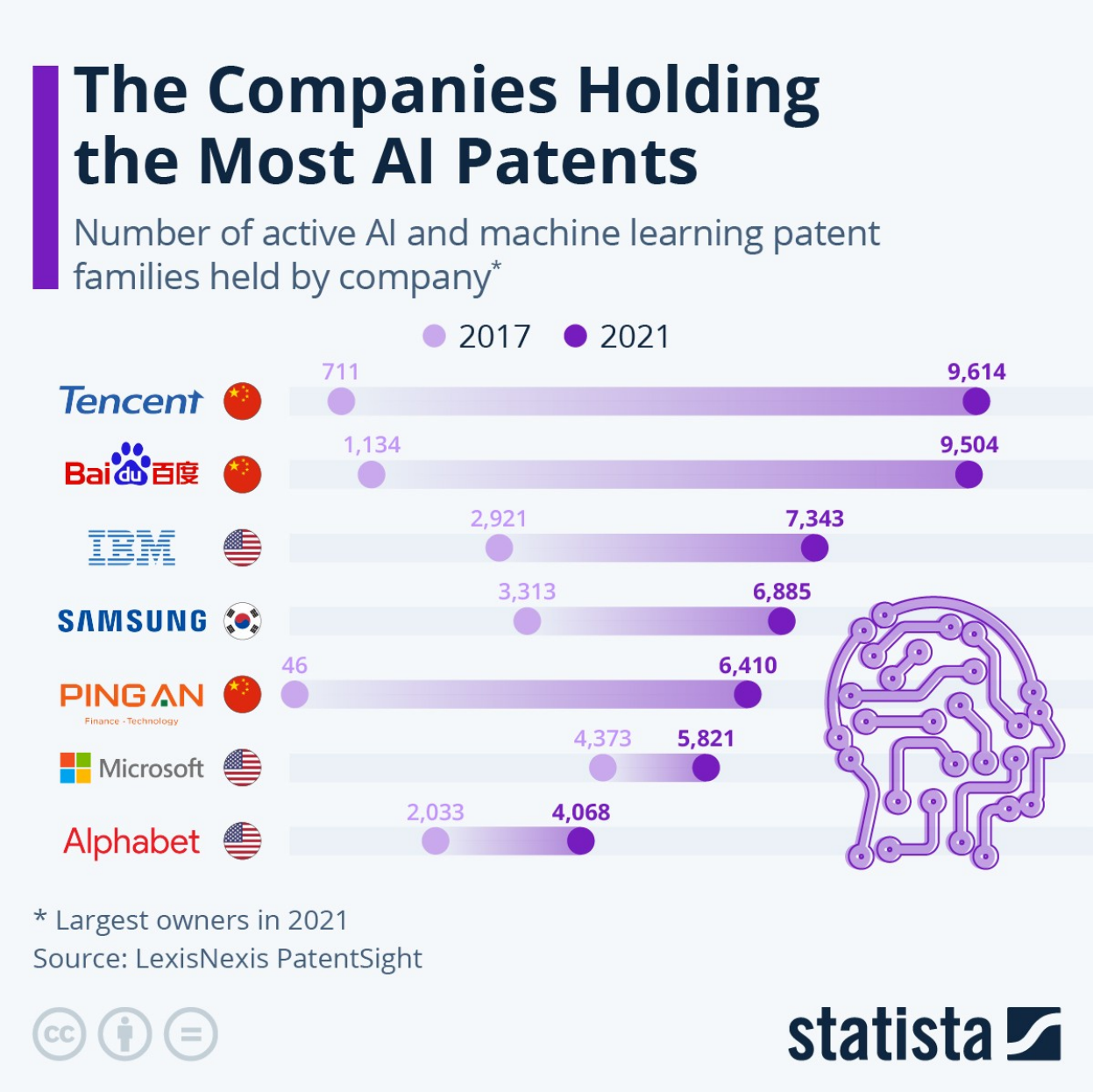
The reorganization of the SMO, with Putin, Chief of the General Staff Valery Gerasimov, and General Armageddon in their new, enhanced roles is derailing all these elaborate plans.

The Straussians are now in deep panic. Even Blinken’s number two, Russophobic warmonger Victoria “F**k the EU” Nuland, has admitted to the US Senate there will be no Abrams tanks on the battlefield before Spring (realistically, only in 2024). She also promised to “ease sanctions” if Moscow “returns to

negotiations.” Those negotiations were scotched by the Americans themselves in Istanbul in the Spring of 2022.

Nuland also called the Russians to “withdraw their troops.” Well, that at least offers some comic relief compared with the panic oozing from Blinken’s “offer you can’t refuse.” Stay tuned for Russia’s non-response response.

Stats, ai, tech, government: companies holding the most active AI and machine learning patent families are now tech giant Tencent and search engine provider Baidu, ahead of U.S. firm IBM, South Korea’s Samsung, Chinese insurance provider Ping An and former AI patent leader Microsoft.



Censorship, government, sanctions: feb2 **EU Corruption Scandal: Socialist MEP Lived "Lifestyle Of A Movie Star"**

Via Remix News,

The Qatargate corruption scandal that has sent shockwaves through Brussels has also revealed that **the key suspect, a “socialist” politician, enjoyed the “lifestyle of a movie star,”** according to Hungarian newspaper Origo.

Vaccine, health, censorship: feb2 **Massive Peer-Reviewed Mask Study Shows 'Little To No Difference' In Preventing COVID, Flu Infection; strongest science to date refuting the basis for mask mandates worldwide.**
zerohedgedotcom/political/massive-mask-study-shows-little-no-difference-preventing-covid-flu-infection

Government, planet, stats: feb2 **ECB Hikes 50bps As Expected, Issues Dovish Forward Guidance, Unveils Climate QE**

And while it is of secondary important, the most hilarious part in the statement was the ECB's disclosure of what can only be dubbed Climate QE, to wit:

For the Eurosystem’s corporate bond purchases, the remaining reinvestments will be tilted more strongly towards issuers with a **better climate performance**. Without prejudice to the ECB’s price stability objective, this approach will support the gradual decarbonisation of the Eurosystem’s corporate bond holdings, in line with the goals of the Paris Agreement.

Yup: just when you thought the idiots in charge of the ECB couldn't shock us any more, they go ahead and totally redeem themselves.

War, Russia: **Pentagon In Classified Briefing: Ukraine Retaking Crimea 'Unlikely' feb2**

During a meeting with Ukrainian defense officials on Jan. 20, chairman of the Join Chiefs of Staff Mark Milley didn't make his counterparts too happy when he said, "I still maintain that for this year it would be very, very difficult to militarily eject the Russian forces from all –– every inch of Ukraine and occupied –– or Russian-occupied Ukraine,." He added at the time: "That doesn’t mean it can’t happen. Doesn’t mean it won’t happen, but it’d be very, very difficult."

The Pentagon has backed Milley's assessment in a new classified briefing issued to lawmakers, and reported in *Politico*. "Ukrainian forces are **unlikely to be able to recapture Crimea from Russian troops in the near future**, four

senior Defense Department officials told House Armed Services Committee lawmakers in a classified briefing."

Rome: **Year of the Five Emperors last for 18 years, from 193-211, following Commodus's assassination**

Commodus (/ˈkɒmədəs/;[4] 31 August 161 – 31 December 192) was a Roman emperor who ruled from 177 to 192. He served jointly with his father Marcus Aurelius from 177 until the latter's death in 180, and thereafter he reigned alone until his assassination. His reign is commonly thought of as marking the end of a golden period of peace in the history of the Roman Empire, known as the Pax Romana.

Commodus accompanied his father during the Marcomannic Wars in 172, and on a tour of the Eastern provinces in 176. The following year he became the youngest emperor and consul up to that point, at the age of 16. During his solo reign, the Roman Empire enjoyed reduced military conflict compared with the reign of Marcus Aurelius. Intrigues and conspiracies abounded, leading Commodus to revert to an increasingly dictatorial style of leadership, culminating in his creating a deific personality cult, with his performing as a gladiator in the Colosseum. Throughout his reign, Commodus entrusted the management of affairs to his palace chamberlain and praetorian prefects, named Saoterus, Perennis and Cleander.

Commodus's assassination in 192, by a wrestler in the bath, marked the end of the Nerva–Antonine dynasty. He was succeeded by Pertinax, the first emperor in the tumultuous Year of the Five Emperors.

With the accession of Commodus we enter upon one of the better illuminated tracts of Roman history. The narrative of Cassius Dio is still much abbreviated and in parts fragmentary, but substantial sections are preserved, and are all the more valuable in that Dio, who entered the senate in Commodus’ reign, now speaks as a con- temporary witness of events, carrying down his story to his own second consulship in 229. In addition to Dio we have another contemporary historian, Herodian, who covers the period from the death of Marcus to the fall of Maximinus in 23 8 ; his work is rather jejune and rhetorical, but he like Dio was well placed to view events, having occupied, as he tells us, official positions during most of the period. We are therefore much less dependent on the Historia Augusta, which is, however, for some of the earlier reigns, based on good material. In addition to the historians, we possess, preserved in the Digest, extensive extracts from the writings of the great Severan jurists, Papinian, Paulus and Ulpian, to name the three most illustrious only, which throw much light on the social conditions of the age.
Commodus was, according to Dio, a simple harmless youth when he came to the throne at the age of nineteen, but he was supremely unfitted for imperial responsibilities, being stupid and obstinate and taking no interest in public affairs; his one passion was

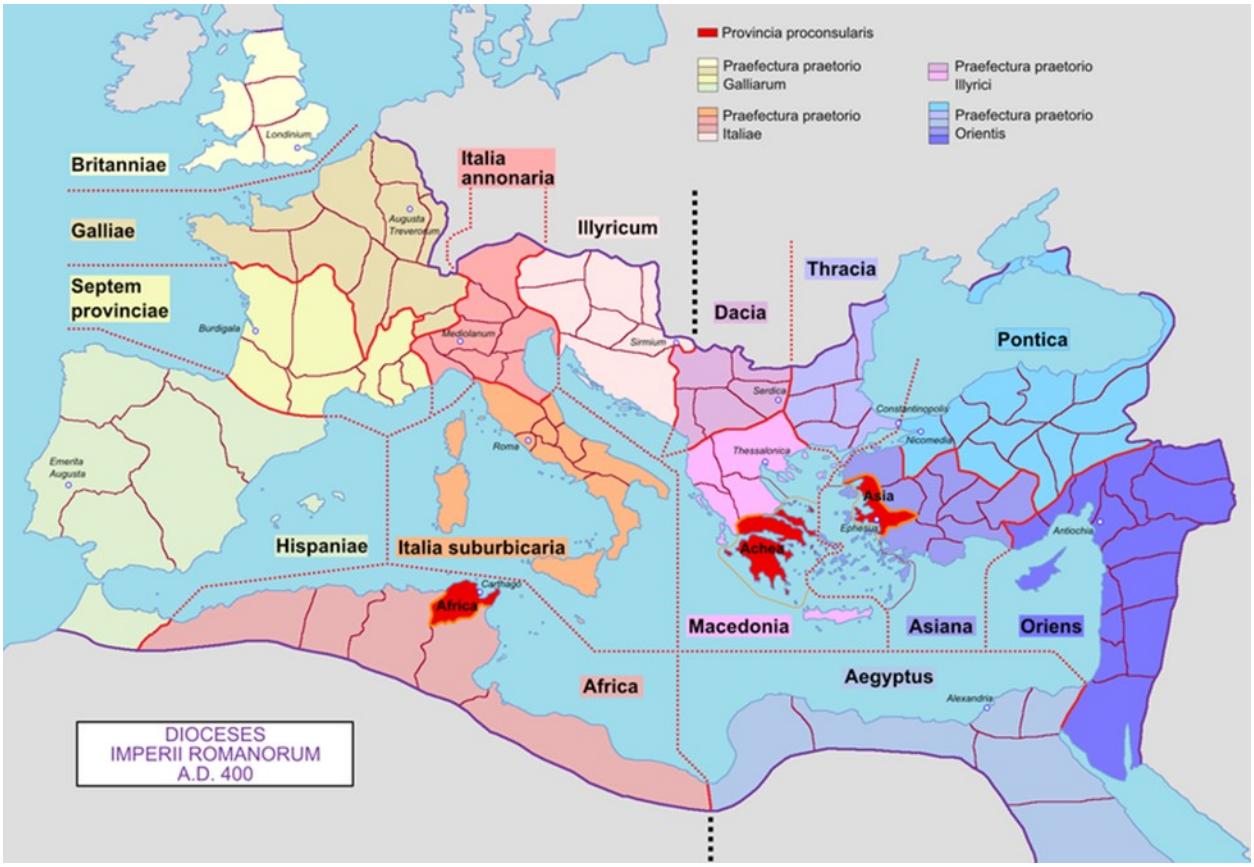
gladiatorial shows, and he fancied himself as a gladiator. He alienated the senate at once by flouting the advice of his father's counsellors and patching up peace on the Danube instead of fighting the war to a finish. On his return to Rome a senator attempted to assassinate him, declaring as he brandished his dagger, 'Look, this is what the senate has sent you!' It is not surprising that Com- modus thereafter waged ruthless war on the senate, and entrusted the government to his praetorian prefects or less worthy favourites. After a twelve years' reign he was at length assassinated in 192. The assassins selected as his successor a very elderly senator,. Helvius Pertinax. He was of humble origins, but had had a very distinguished military career, and had held the senior senatorial, office of prefect of the city. It was apparently hoped that his. military reputation would commend him to the armies, while his, high offices, his respectable character, and above all his advanced age would in the eyes of senators compensate for his lowly birth : it is noticeable that the senate, whenever it had any choice, normally

elected an octogenarian, but preferably one of noble birth. Pertinax reigned less than three months before he was lynched by the praetorians. There ensued an informal auction of the empire by the praetorians, the two bidders being the prefect of the city and another immensely wealthy senator, Didius Julianus, who secured the prize by the promise of a fabulous donative.

It was unlikely that other ambitious senators, who commanded tiie major provincial armies, would acquiesce in this choice, and now that the line of the Antonines had been broken, the armies had no focus for their loyalty and could be induced to back their own generals against the candidate of the praetorians. Three men were in the running, Clodius Albinus, legate of Britain, a man of family and the senatorial favourite, Pescennius Niger, legate of Syria, a new man, but popular with the humbler classes at Rome, and Septimius Severus, legate of the Pannonias, another new man, little liked in the senate. Niger was proclaimed at Antioch, but while, over-confident of success, he remained inactive, Severus struck. Proclaiming himself the avenger of Pertinax, whose name he adopted, and thereby cultivating the goodwill both of the Danube armies, whose popular commander Pertinax had been, and of the senate, he marched rapidly on Rome, which he captured without a struggle. The senate duly elected him, and he announced that, following the example of Marcus, he would respect its prerogatives. Having appointed Albinus Caesar, with the prospect of succeeding him, he marched east to deal with Niger, and defeated him after a severe struggle. Returning west again he picked a quarrel with Albinus, and after another severe struggle conquered him also. Severus found that a number of prominent senators had been intriguing with Albinus against him, and on his second appearance at Rome he abruptly changed his tone to the senate, executing twenty-nine of its leading members for treason, and confiscating their property. He now moreover, to the senate's horror, pro- claimed himself not only son of Marcus but brother of Commodus, and honoured the latter's memory.

https://archive.org/details/JonesLaterRomanEmpire01/page/n13/mode/2up?q=prefects
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Year_of_the_Five_Emperors

Roman Empire with dioceses in 400 AD



history, church: From a Catholic viewpoint, the primacy of the bishop of Rome is largely derived from his role as the apostolic successor to Saint Peter, to whom primacy was conferred by Jesus, who gave Peter the Keys of Heaven and the powers of "binding and loosing", naming him as the "rock" upon which the Church would be built. The current pope is Francis, who was elected on 13 March 2013.[7]

According to Catholic tradition, the apostolic see of Rome was founded by Saint Peter and Saint Paul in the first century. The papacy is one of the most enduring institutions in the world and has had a prominent part in human history.[9] In ancient times, the popes helped spread Christianity and intervened to find resolutions in various doctrinal disputes.[10] In the Middle Ages, they played a role of secular importance in Western Europe, often acting as arbitrators between Christian monarchs.[11][12][a] In addition to the expansion of Christian faith and doctrine, modern popes are involved in ecumenism and interfaith dialogue, charitable work, and the defense of human rights.[13]

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pope

the pope: Over time, the papacy accrued broad secular and political influence, eventually rivaling those of territorial rulers. In recent centuries, the temporal authority of the papacy has declined and the office is now largely focused on religious matters.[10] By contrast, papal claims of spiritual authority have been increasingly firmly expressed over time, culminating in 1870 with the proclamation of the dogma of papal infallibility for rare occasions when the pope speaks ex cathedra—literally "from the chair (of Saint Peter)"—to issue a formal definition of faith or morals.[10] The pope is considered one of the world's most powerful people due to the extensive diplomatic, cultural, and spiritual influence of his position on both 1.3 billion Catholics and those outside the Catholic faith,[14][15][16] and because he heads the world's largest non-government provider of education and health care,[17] with a vast network of charities.

Christianity as the Roman state religion

Christianity became the official religion of the Roman Empire when Emperor Theodosius I issued the Edict of Thessalonica in 380,[1] which recognized the catholic orthodoxy[a] of Nicene Christians in the Great Church as the Roman Empire's state religion.[3][4][5][6] Most historians refer to the Nicene church associated with emperors in a variety of ways: as the **catholic church**, the **orthodox church**, the **imperial church**, the **imperial Roman church**, or the **Byzantine church**, although some of those terms are also used for wider communions extending outside the Roman Empire.[7] The Eastern Orthodox Church, Oriental Orthodoxy, and the Catholic Church all claim to stand in continuity from the Nicene church to which Theodosius granted recognition.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Christianity_as_the_Roman_state_religion

read later: papal arbitration

Energy, sanctions: feb1 Russia's Pipeline Gas Exports To Europe Slump To Record Low

By Tsvetana Paraskova of OilPrice.com,

Russia’s pipeline gas exports to Europe slumped to a new monthly record-low in January, falling by nearly 30% from December due to lower prices on the spot market, according to Reuters calculations.

Russia’s gas giant Gazprom has seen exports to Europe decline since the Russian invasion of Ukraine last year as Russia cut off gas supplies to a number of countries in Europe. Russia cut off supply to Poland, Bulgaria, and Finland in April and May, slashed gas deliveries via Nord Stream to Germany in June, then off Nord Stream supply in early September.

Russia still sends some gas via pipelines to Europe via one transit route through Ukraine, and via TurkStream.

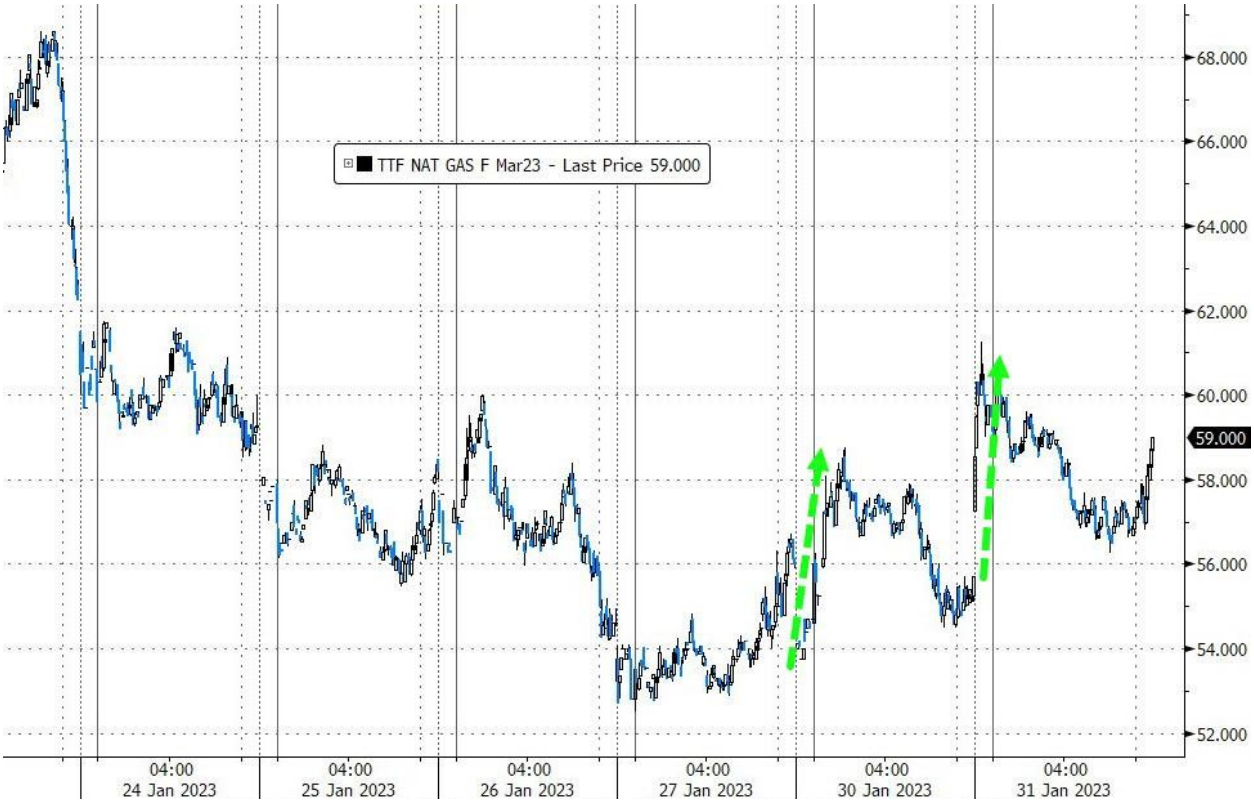
This month, Gazprom has reduced pipeline gas transit flows to Europe via Ukraine on some days. **Analysts have said that the lower pipeline flows were the result of lower demand for gas under long-term contracts, considering the milder weather in parts of Europe earlier in January and the fact that spot supply is currently cheaper.**

Per Reuters calculations, which are based on daily data of flows from Russia via the transit route through Ukraine and via TurkStream, pipeline gas exports from Russia to Europe dropped to around some 1.8 billion cubic meters (bcm) in January, down from 2.5 bcm in December.

Gazprom hasn’t released January export data yet, but its **exports to Europe via pipelines plunged to a post-Soviet low in 2022,** according to data from the Russian firm calculated by Reuters. Last year’s Russian gas exports slumped by 45% year on year to reach 100.9 bcm in 2022.

Germany, Russia’s biggest customer of gas before the Russian invasion of Ukraine, doesn’t import any Russian gas via pipeline now. **Norway became Germany’s single-largest natural gas supplier in 2022, overtaking Russia, as total German gas imports dropped by 12.3% compared to 2021.**

Markets, sanctions, energy: feb1 European Natural Gas Prices Surge Ahead Of Cold Spell



War, middle east, markets, inflation: feb1

Hyperinflationary Hell: Lebanese Central Bank Devalues 'Lira' By 90%

Hyperinflationary Hell: Lebanese Central Bank Devalues 'Lira' By 90%

BY TYLER DURDEN
WEDNESDAY, FEB 01, 2023 - 05:15 AM

Cash is now king in Lebanon, where a three-year economic meltdown has led the country's once-lauded financial sector to atrophy and turned the country into a Venezuelan-esque hyperinflationary hell. The country has been hit hard by events over the past few years, starting with COVID.

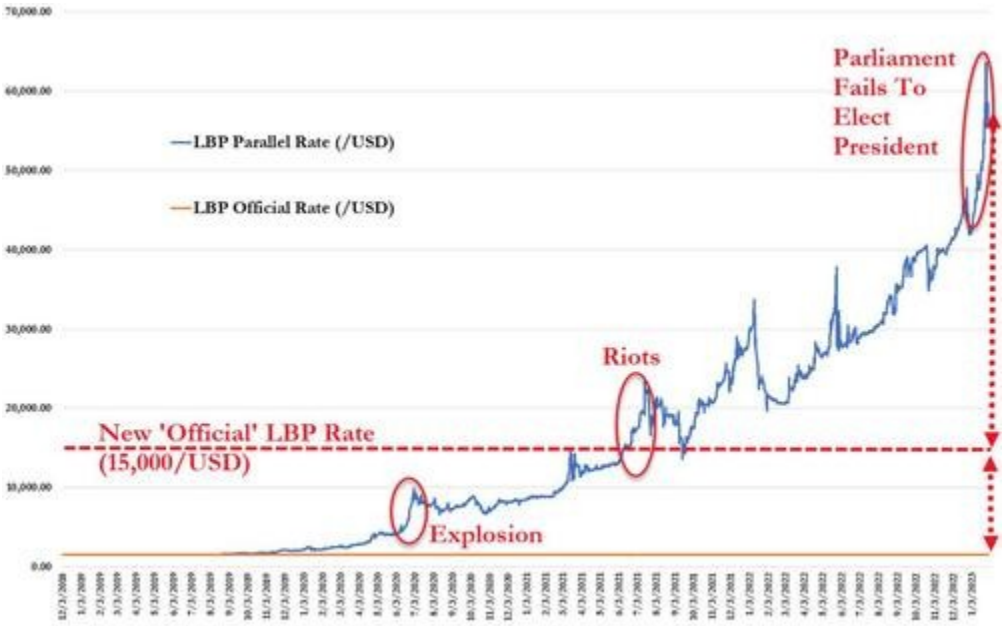
In August 2020, the city of Beiruit was practically destroyed by a **massive blast which killed at least 200 people and triggered as much as $15 billion in damage**...

In March 2021, violent protests erupted across Lebanon as the currency collapse accelerated and with it the economy and people's living standards.

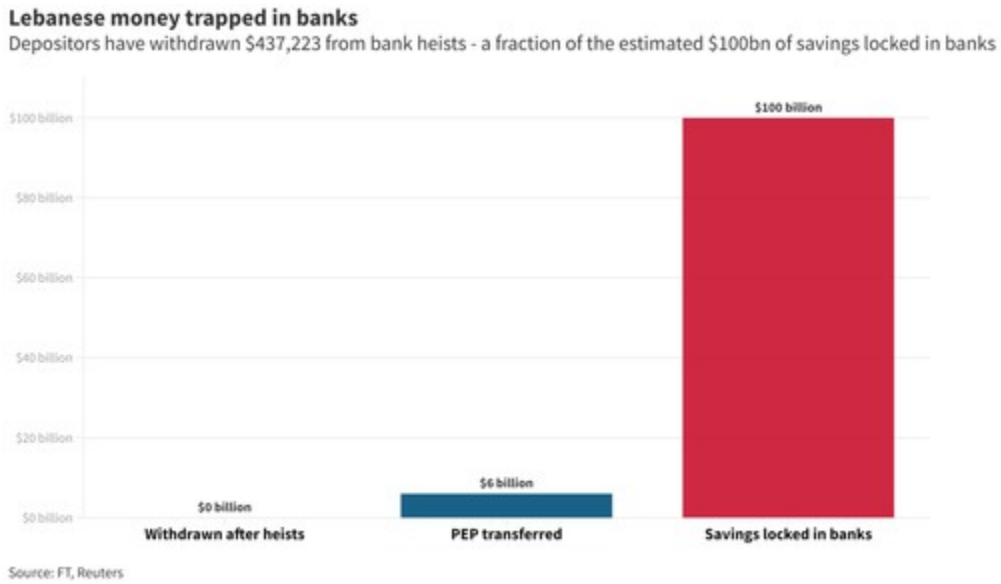
And most recently, In December 2022, the **Lebanese parliament failed for the eighth consecutive time to elect a new president**, as a majority of lawmakers opposed the options laid on the table.

The prolonged power vacuum only exacerbates the situation, as Beirut is currently unable to enact sweeping reforms demanded by international lenders as a condition for releasing billions of dollars in loans.

All of which has sent the 'parallel' FX rate to a stunning 60,000/USD (compared to the official Pound - often nicknamed 'Lira' - rate of 1500/USD)...



As Reuters reports, **Zombie banks have frozen depositors out of tens of billions of dollars in their accounts,** halting basic services and even prompting some customers to hold up tellers at gunpoint to access their money.



This has prompted bank runs...

Not a week goes by without Lebanese depositors storming their own banks in a desperate attempt to access savings frozen after the country's economy collapsed.

Banks began imposing draconian limits on withdrawals and transfers in 2019, leaving depositors able to access only a fraction of their savings in dollars and Lebanese pounds.

and heists...

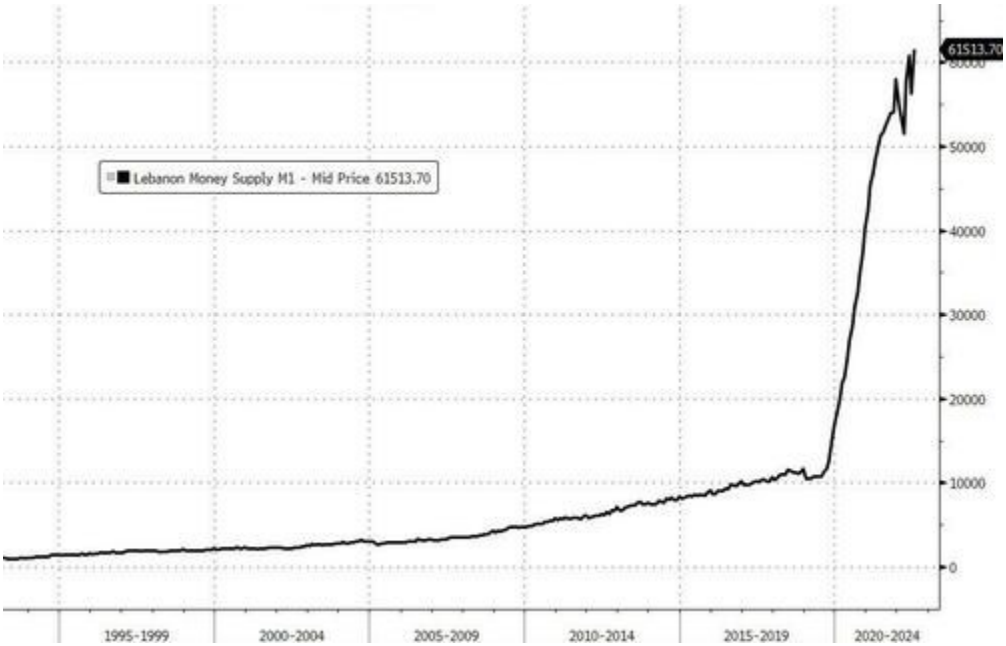
The National has recorded 27 depositor bank "heists" since the start of the year, including armed and unarmed hold-ups and sit-ins.

Former director-general of the Ministry of Finance Alain Bifani estimated that ***$6 billion was "smuggled" by bankers outside Lebanon for the political and economic elites while they were blocking transfers abroad for ordinary people.***

"These forced withdrawals — we do not call them heists, because this would imply that these depositors are stealing other people's money — are a solution of last-resort after the exhaustion of all possible ways for depositors to recover their money," said lawyer Fouad Debs, co-founder of Lebanese Depositors Union.

People and businesses now operate almost exclusively in cash.

The local currency in circulation ballooned 12-fold between Sept. 2019 and Nov. 2022, according to banking documents seen by Reuters.



With more bank notes in circulation, crime has risen. Elie Anatian, CEO of security firm Salvado, said yearly sales of safes had grown steadily, with a 15% increase in 2022.

And that has seemingly forced officials' hands as Reuters reports that **Lebanon will adopt a new official exchange rate of 15,000 pounds per U.S. dollar on Feb. 1, central bank governor Riad Salameh said, marking a 90% devaluation** from its current official rate that has remained unchanged for 25 years.

The shift from the old rate of 1,507 to 15,000 is still far off the parallel market rate of around 60,000.

Salameh said the change to 15,000 was a step towards unifying multiple exchange rates, in line with a draft agreement Lebanon reached with the International Monetary Fund last year that set out conditions to unlock a $3 billion bailout.

Nassib Ghobril, chief economist at Lebanon's Byblos Bank, said **the pound's continuing decline meant the cash economy was now also dollarised, "with dollars accounting for approximately 70-80% of operations".**

"The transformation to a cash economy means the collapse of the economy," said Mohammad Chamseddine, an economic expert at Lebanese research group Information International.

The IMF deal is widely seen as the only way for Lebanon to begin restoring confidence in its financial system and recover from the collapse.

However, as we previously noted, **there have also been fights in supermarkets as people try to buy bread, sugar, oil, and other goods before they run out**, with inflation 400 percent, the report said.

Murder rates and other crimes are also rapidly rising.

The economic collapse could reduce the country into a failed state, experts have warned.

“Not only do we have an absence of government and a political vacuum, but we’re going to have a severe problem with the function of the state of Lebanon,” Lebanese American University political scientist Imad Salamey told The Wall Street Journal. ***“We are heading toward the unknown.”***

stats, censorship: nearly all nonprofit journalism organizations are 501(c)3 nonprofits) and refusal to disclose its donors

Stats, media, planet, history: jan31 **that vsauce video i was thinking about…shows a thematic timeline nicely illustrating how short what we know as ‘civilized society” has lasted compared to how long we lived as cave people. The video shows us walking through caves and the forest for about 30 seconds, then suddenly switches to a video of a city from birds eye view that only lasts for an instant, meaning to convey how new we are as a species to technology, advanced medicine, etc.**

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yNLdblFQqsw

War: jan31 **atw full page. Just saving the full page now**

News

Updated January 31, 2023 - 9:10 AM EST

Poland Ready to Send F-16s to Ukraine With

Croatia's President: Western Arms Supplies to Ukraine Prolong War

RAND Corp: Long Ukraine War Against US Interests

Western Officials Believe Russia Will 'Gain Upper Hand' in Ukraine

More Airstrikes Reported in Syria Near Iraq Border

Iran Summons Ukraine Envoy Over Israeli Drone Attack Comments

Russia and Iran Launch Payment System as an Alternative to Swift

Finland Says It Will Stick With Sweden in NATO Bid

Taiwan Warnings Show US Military Is Preparing for War

Suicide Bomber Kills 59, Wounds 150 at Pakistan Mosque

Viewpoints

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NATO's 'War Against Russia' Inches 'Closer to Direct Conflict'

by Aaron Maté

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UK Faces Lawsuit Over Saudi Arms Sales Contributing to Yemen Abuses

Blinken Lands in Israel, Calls for 'Steps to Calm Tensions'

Jenin's Bereaved Residents Left in a 'War Zone' Following Israeli Raid

Russia

Palestine/Israel

Euro-Med Monitor Report Reveals Surge in Israeli Violence Against Palestinians

Israeli Settlers Attack Armenian Patriarchate in Jerusalem

US Not Interested in Pressing Israel Amid Violence: Experts

Hamas Shoots Down Israeli UAV Drone Over Gaza Strip

Dozens of Israeli Settlers Storm Al-Aqsa Mosque

Settlers, Army Go on Revenge Rampage in West Bank

Jenin Refugee Camp Residents Defiant After Deadly Israeli Assault

Can Israel Legally Deport Families of Palestinian Terrorists?

Israeli Forces Shoot Palestinian Man Dead in Central Hebron

Rights Group Files Objection Against US Embassy Plans on Stolen Land in Jerusalem

Israel's Shekel and Stock Market Tumble in Response to Political Turmoil

Nearly 80 US Legal Scholars 'Strongly Oppose' Israel's Judicial Reforms

Syria

Flights, Cross-Border Trade to Resume Between Syria and Iraq

Syria Bus Bombing Wounds 15 Police in Restive South

Israeli Troops Shoot Dead Syrian Hunter in Occupied Golan

Iraq

Iraq Daily Roundup: Five Killed

Morocco Reopens Embassy in Iraq After 18 Years

Iraq Denies Pompeo Visited

Baghdad in 2017

Turkey

Turkey's Opposition Vows More Democracy if It Wins Election

Turkey Signs $200 Million Deal With South Korean Firm for Altay Tank Parts

Egypt

Three Tiktok Influencers Arrested in Egypt After Parody Video of Jail Visit

Explosion Kills Three Children in Egypt's North Sinai

DR Congo

Islamist Rebels Kill at Least 15 in Eastern DR Congo

Conflict Survivors to Meet Pope Francis on His DR Congo Trip

Africa

Berlin Skeptical About Troops Staying in Mali Until 2024

Morocco Remains Silent Amid Reports of Weapons to Ukraine

Tunisia Opposition Urges Unity After Low Election Turnout

Wife of ISIS Leader Jailed for Eight Years in Somalia

The War at Home

More Cite Government as Top US Problem; Inflation Ranks Second

Ex-Twitter Execs to Testify on Block of Hunter Biden Story

US House Republican to Pursue Safeguards on Classified Documents

Biden Administration Plans to End Covid Public Health Emergency on May 11

US Air Force Awards Boeing $2.3 Billion Contract for 15 More KC-46s

Aerospace Company Lockheed Martin Confirms Successful Hypersonic Missile Test

Peru

Dems Urge Biden to Halt Aid to Peru Over Protest Crackdown

Peru Protests Fire Up a Divided Nation

Censorship, government: jan31 **London Police Recruiting Illiterate Officers Who Can Barely Write English To Meet Diversity Quotas**

London Police Recruiting Illiterate Officers Who Can Barely Write English To Meet Diversity Quotas

BY TYLER DURDEN
TUESDAY, JAN 31, 2023 - 04:30 AM

Authored by Paul Joseph Watson via Summit News,

The Metropolitan Police in London is recruiting officers who are illiterate, can barely write English, and may have a criminal record in order to meet diversity quotas, it has been revealed.

Yes, really.

A 2014 promise to have 40% of the force be represented by ethnic minorities by 2023 has fallen well short, with just 17% of officers being from 'diverse' backgrounds.

Matt Parr, the head of the organization responsible for inspecting British police forces, told the Telegraph that London, "which will likely be a minority white city in the next decade or so, should not be policed by an overwhelmingly white police force."

In addition to the optics of a largely white police force being wrong, Parr said it was also, "operationally wrong, because it means that the Met does not get insight into some of the communities it polices and that has caused problems in the past. So we completely support the drive to make the Met much more representative of the community it serves than it is at the moment."

That drive has however led to officers being hired who struggle to even write up basic crime reports.

“They are taking in significant numbers of people who are, on paper at least, functionally illiterate in English,” said Parr, adding that the Met was “recruiting the wrong people” and that the diversity push had “lowered standards.”

However, Parr also noted that it was a good thing that the Met was “taking a risk” by hiring young black men who may have criminal records.

David Spencer, the head of the think tank Policy Exchange and a former Metropolitan Police officer, said that the diversity drive had lowered standards.

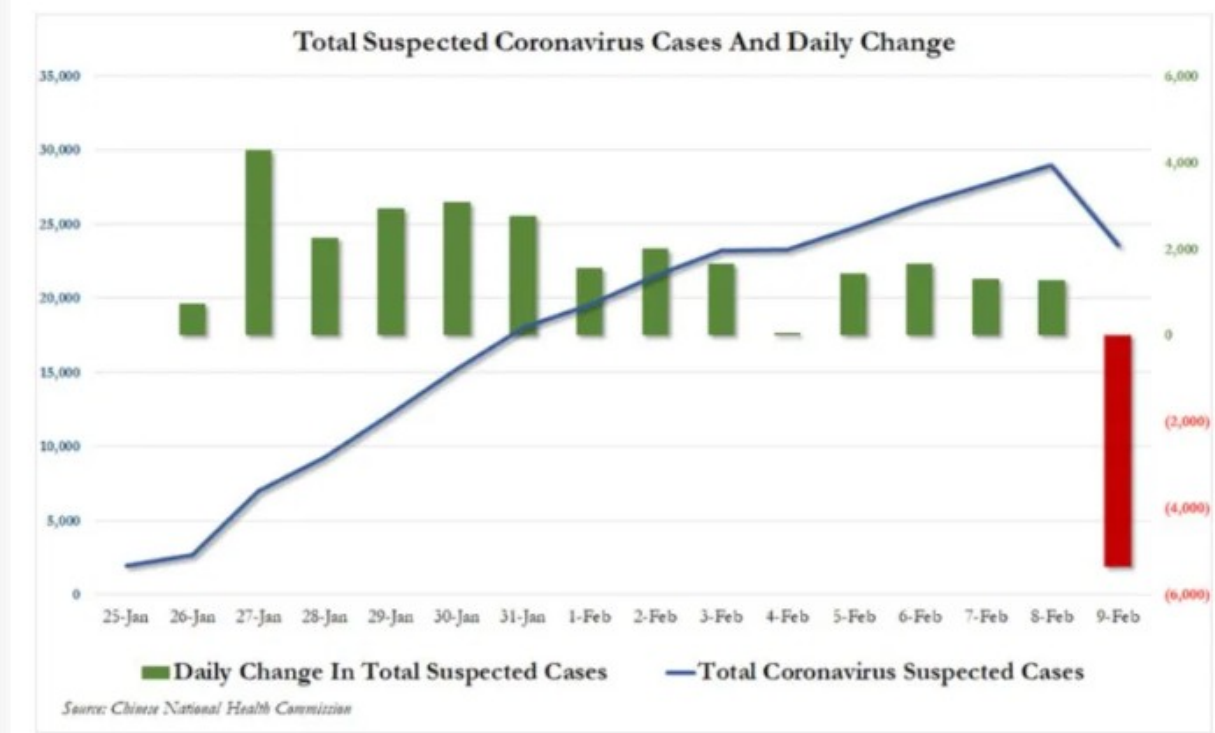
“There is a tension between volume, quality and diversity and something has to give,” Spencer explained. “Someone has to ask what is the most important of those three things and you have to be really careful because once you have recruited someone they are possibly going to be there for the next 30 years.”

As we previously highlighted, police resources in London are so stretched that major department stores have given up on calling them to catch shoplifters.

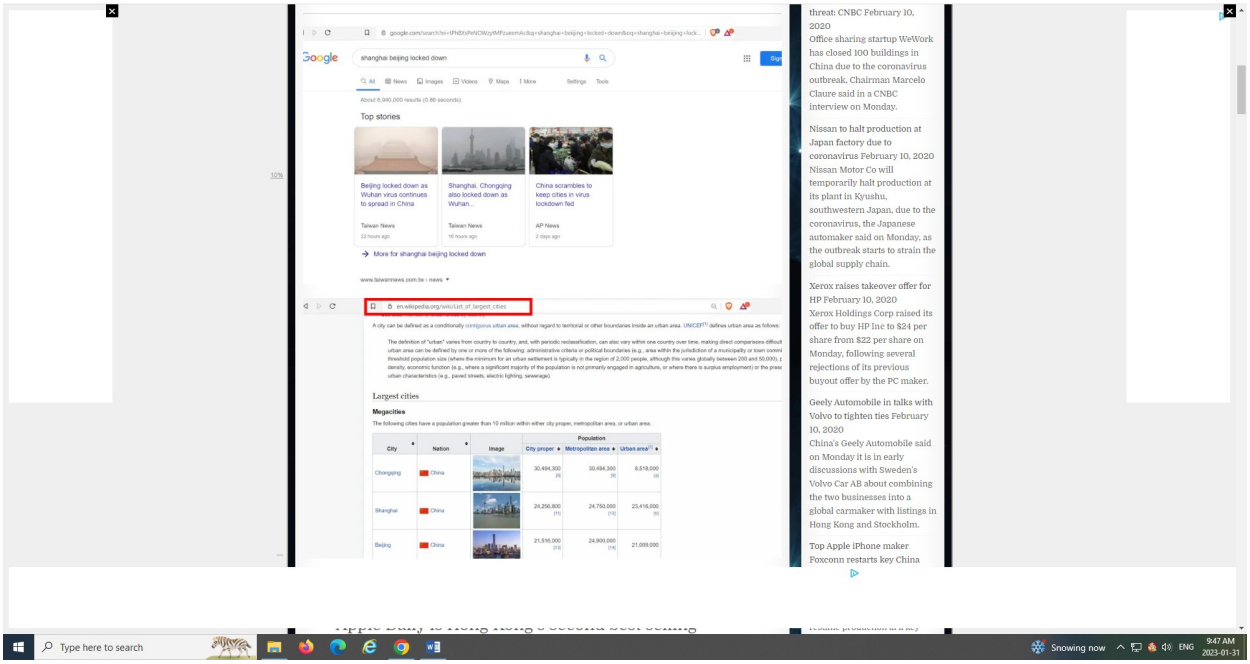
Car theft in London has effectively been decriminalized, with just 277 out of 55,000 offences being solved by Scotland Yard, a 0.5% success rate.

However, there still appears to be plenty of resources available to interrogate people for posting offensive social media posts.

Vaccine, health, china, censorship: jan31 **[FULL REVIEW]China Changes 'Confirmed Case' Methodology: Infected Without Symptoms (Asymptomatic) Now Does NOT Constitute a 'CONFIRMED CASE' According to Alex Lam of AppleDaily.HK**



Beijing and Shanghai Now Locked Down — Two Both 2nd and 3rd Most Populated Cities in the World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threat: CNBC February 10, 2020
Office sharing startup WeWork has closed 100 buildings in China due to the coronavirus outbreak, Chairman Marcelo Claure said in a CNBC interview on Monday.
Nissan to halt production at Japan factory due to coronavirus February 10, 2020
Nissan Motor Co will temporarily halt production at its plant in Kyushu, southwestern Japan, due to the coronavirus, the Japanese automaker said on Monday, as the outbreak starts to strain the global supply chain.
Xerox raises takeover offer for HP February 10, 2020
Xerox Holdings Corp raised its offer to buy HP Inc to $24 per share from $22 per share on Monday, following several rejections of its previous buyout offer by the PC maker.
Geely Automobile in talks with Volvo to tighten ties February 10, 2020
China's Geely Automobile said on Monday it is in early discussions with Sweden's Volvo Car AB about combining the two businesses into a global carmaker with listings in Hong Kong and Stockholm.
Top Apple iPhone maker Foxconn restarts key China
Type here to search
Snowing now
ENG
9:47 AM
2023-01-31

Stats, media: jan31 **Subliminal Messaging: How Advertisers Use Sex to Seduce You Into Buying Their Products**

Notice something just a little bit odd about that picture; something that just kinda, sticks out a little bit?

Do you see her hands? The one at the bottom almost looks like it’s fondling something, doesn’t it?

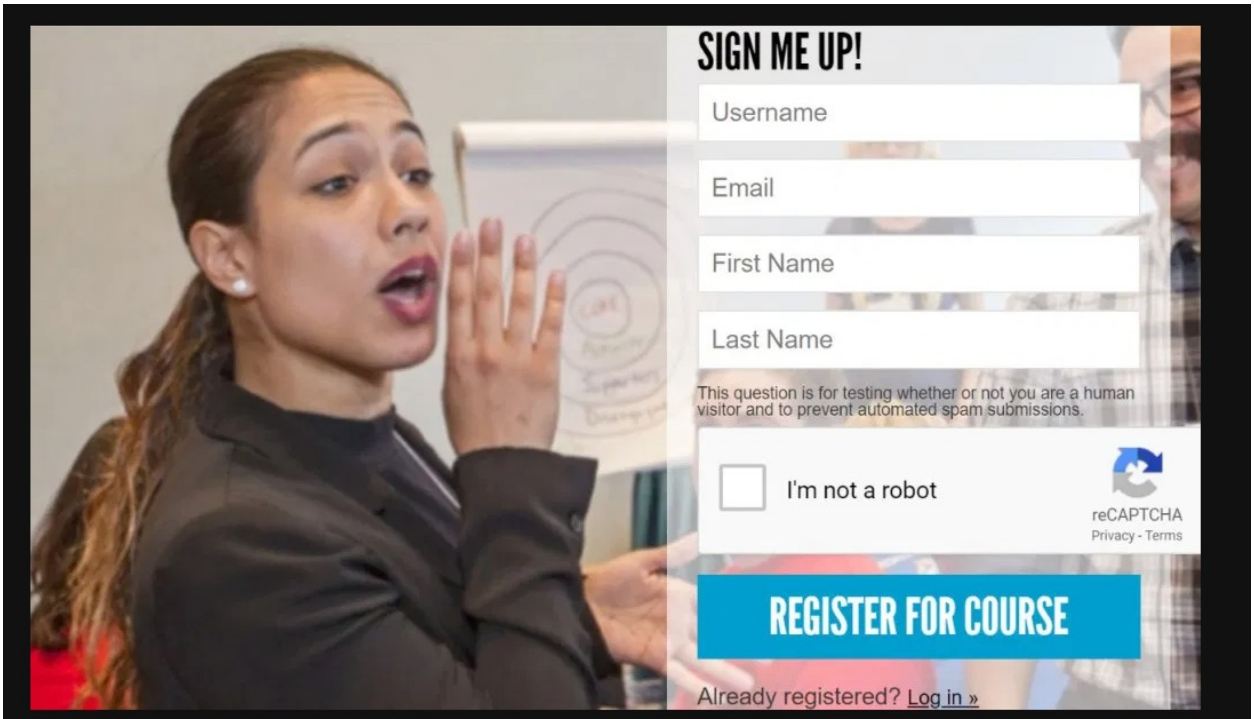
Do you see her mouth? Do you see where her other hand is? None of this is accidental, and everything is there for a reason.

Let’s expand the picture.

Everybody in the background is looking at her, like she’s about do something….big. They are all waiting expectantly as she opens her mouth. The man on the right is ready, excited. He knows what’s coming. The man on the bottom; do you see the look on his face? Look at his eyes. It’s like he can’t wait for what is about to come.

Do you see the bulls-eye; the one that lines up perfectly with her mouth? There’s a word in there that you can’t quite make out. You can sort of make it out, but it’s kind of blurry. Core maybe?.....Coke?

…..cock??..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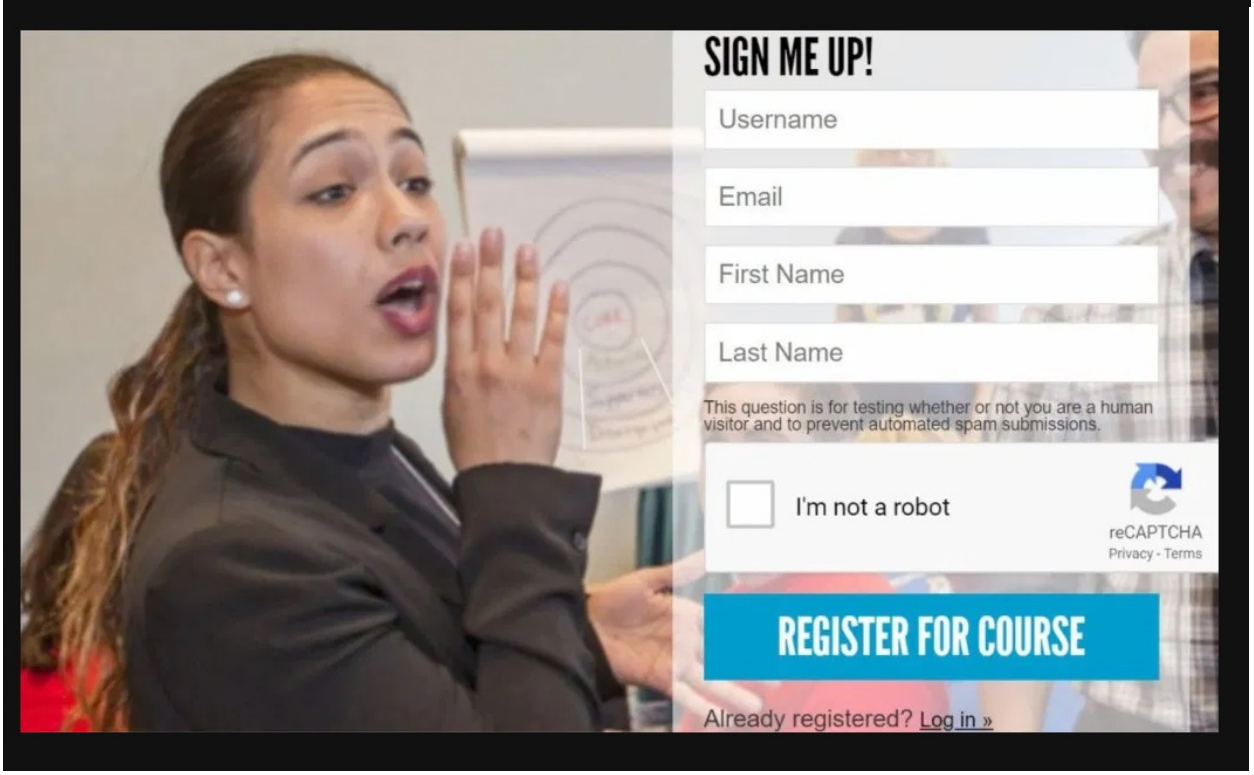
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Watch this
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dcyWU3xC5vs

Journal, war: jan31 **tanks, 'locked, and loaded, and full steam ahead"...**

Last week, President Biden announced 31 M1 Abrams main battle tanks (without secret armor) would be sent to Ukraine. Germany, Norway, Poland, and other NATO countries will send other tanks, including the Leopard 2. Even Morocco will send older T-72 series tanks, currently in use in the war-torn country.

All of these 'donated' tanks sound great, but if they don't make it to Europe and race across the battlefield by spring, then the Ukranians might have trouble repelling the Russians.

A press release via the US Transportation Command (USTRANSCOM), a segment of the US military responsible for transporting equipment worldwide, detailed last week that a large roll-on/roll-off vessel named "ARC Integrity" loaded 60 Bradley Fighting Vehicles destined for Ukraine.

As of Monday, and according to USTRANSCOM's press release noting the vessel's name, data via MarineTraffic shows ARC Integrity is full steam ahead in the Atlantic Ocean and will arrive at the Port in Southampton, England, on Feb. 7.

USTRANSCOM uses large ro-ro carriers to transport all sorts of military equipment worldwide. These fighting vehicles are being loaded at ports along East Coast and Gulf Coast states.

India, war, sanctions: jan31 **markets, government, war, sanctions: it's just theft: "Indian conglomerate said Hindenburg's report was "nothing short of a calculated securities fraud under applicable law."" Adani's personal wealth plummeted by $34 billion in the last four trading sessions**

Adani might have calmed investors Sunday when his company responded to 65 of the 88 questions Hindenburg wrote in the short report last week. The Indian conglomerate said Hindenburg's report was "nothing short of a calculated securities fraud under applicable law."

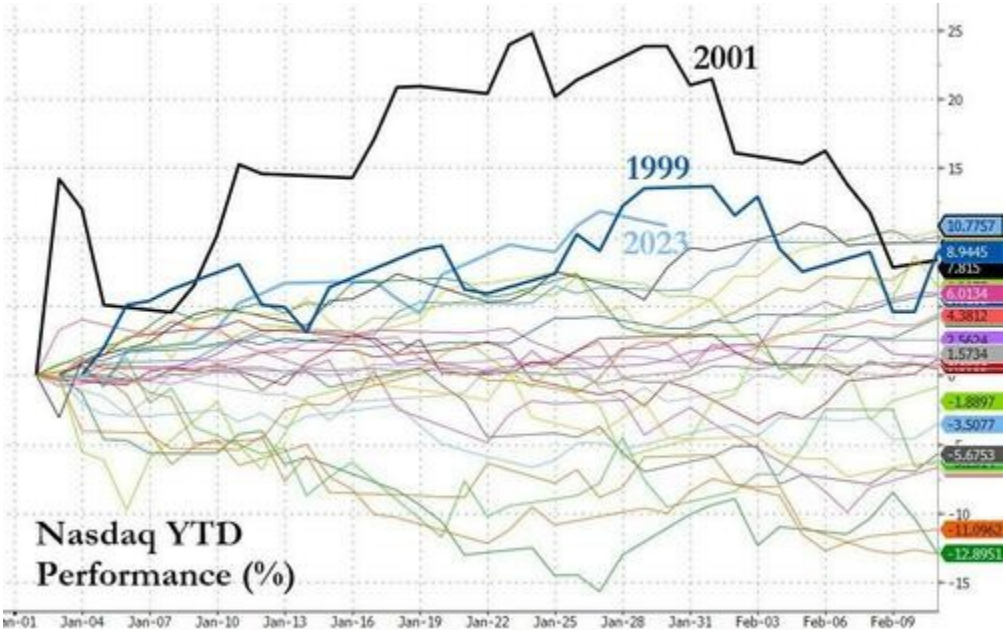
Meanwhile, Adani's personal wealth plummeted by $34 billion in the last four trading sessions. He fell out of the world's top 10 richest people list and now ranks 11th on the Bloomberg Billionaires Index, with a current fortune of $84.4 billion.

"Now that Adani's FPO is out of the way, investors' focus may start shifting back to India's growth story," said Sumeet Rohra, a fund manager at Smartsun Capital Pte. in Singapore.

Tech, government: jan31 **Tech Layoffs Accelerate Despite Nasdaq's Best Start To Year Since 2001**

Technology-heavy Nasdaq is experiencing one of its best months in two decades despite accelerating mass job cuts at tech firms and increasing risk of recession.

The Nasdaq Composite Index is up 10% so far this month, on track for its best January performance since 2001, when it recorded a 12% gain.



Stocks are flying ahead of the Wednesday FOMC meeting. What could derail optimism is Fed Chair Powell re-emphasizing that the rate hike cycle isn't over, which would force financial conditions to retighten.

Many traders today weren't around for the Dot Com bust. As soon as February 2001 hit, Nasdaq resumed its tumble and plunged nearly 30% through the rest of the year.

Another repeat of early 2001 could be in the cards if the Fed maintains its uber-hawkishness, earning season disappoints, and recession risks continue to flourish.

One ominous sign of financial stress among tech firms is the accelerating headcount reduction to start the year, a move to improve profitability amid recession threats.

So far this month, big tech firms, including Amazon, Google, Microsoft, Salesforce, IBM, and others, have laid off more than 52,000 jobs, according to Bloomberg data.

Technology Layoffs

Job cuts announced in the industry in 2023.

Company	Number of jobs cut	% of workforce	Notes
Amazon	18,000	1%	The cuts amount to about 6% of Amazon's 350,000 corporate employees around the world.
Alphabet	12,000	6	Alphabet's headcount had swelled 20% per year since 2017.
Microsoft	10,000	5	Layoffs extended to its game divisions.
Salesforce	8,000	10	Cuts included Slack, Tableau and Mulesoft, businesses that Salesforce acquired in recent years.
IBM	3,900	2	The cuts will focus on workers remaining after spinning off the Kyndryl and Watson Health units.
Wayfair	1,750	10	The online retailer's cuts include 18% of corporate employees.
Stitch Fix	1,584	20	The company will also close its Salt Lake City distribution center.
Lam Research	1,300	7	The provider of chip equipment is also eliminating 1,400 temporary positions.
Capital One	1,100	2	Cuts were in the technology division.
Coinbase	950	20	It's closing most of its operations in Japan and shutting several projects in the third round of cuts since last June.
Spotify	600	6	Most departments across the company will lose jobs.
Luno	336	35	The crypto exchange is owned by Digital Currency Group.
Unity Software	284	5	Its second round of downsizing in less than a year amid a broad tech-industry retrenchment.
Silvergate Capital	200	40	Customers withdrew $8.1 billion worth of digital assets during the fourth quarter.
Uber Freight	150	3	Uber's independent freight unit is cutting within the digital brokerage team.
Vimeo	135	11	The video platform plans to complete its cuts by the end of the first quarter.
Blockchain.com	110	28	The company also cut 150 jobs last year.
ConsenSys	96	11	The crypto firm is a major investor in Ethereum-based platforms.
Genesis	60	30	The crypto brokerage eliminated 20% of its staff last August while its CEO stepped down.cn

Source: Bloomberg

Bloomberg

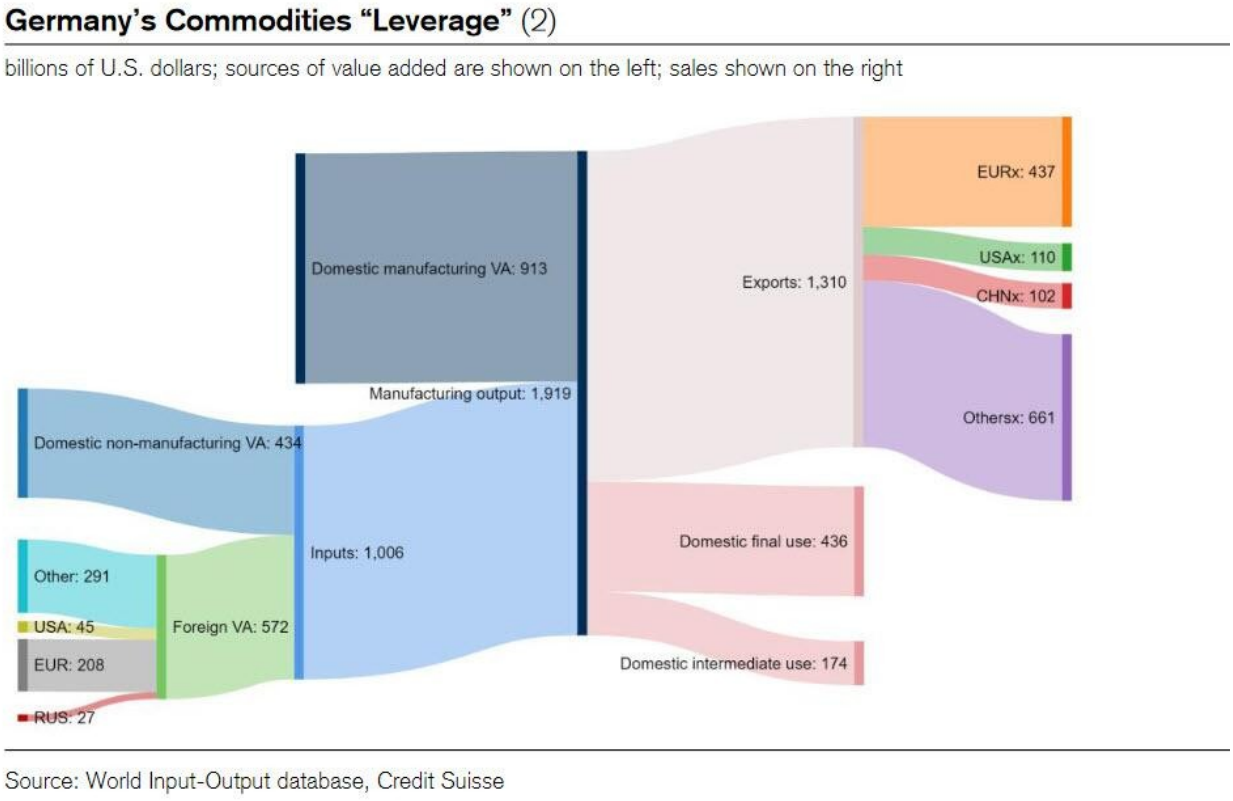
Additional jobs data from Layoffs.fyi shows 229 tech firms (big and small) laid off a total of 68,502 employees this month. Last year, 1,040 tech companies fired 160,000 employees.

What's evident is that tech firms are under pressure, but shares in companies are surging, leaving some to believe the latest up move could be a bear market rally.

Sanctions, markets, Germany, energy: jan31 The "Price Shock" is Just Starting: German Industry To Pay 40% More For Energy Than Pre-Crisis

Back in August 2022, repo plumbing guru Zoltan Pozsar published a fascinating chart showing how "*$2 Trillion Of German Value Depends On $20 Billion Of Russian Gas*" or specifically, how Germany had applied **some 100x leverage - much more than Lehman - on cheap commodities, and mostly Russian gas, to cheaply run its export-driven economic miracle for decades.**

And with Russia's cheap gas now gone for the foreseeable future, so is Germany's tremendous operating leverage. Which means profit margins will be hammered for years to come.



And with Russia's cheap gas now gone for the foreseeable future, so is Germany's tremendous operating leverage. Which means profit margins will be hammered for years to come.

As proof look no further than a study published Monday by Allianz Trade which cited contract expiries and delayed wholesale pricing effects, and which according to Reuters found that **German industry is set to pay about 40% more for energy in 2023 than in 2021,** before the energy crisis triggered by Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

"The large energy-price shock still lies ahead for European corporates," said Allianz Trade, the credit insurer that changed its name from Euler Hermes last year.

As a reminder, in 2022, higher corporate utility bills were contained as long pass-through times from wholesale markets and government interventions mitigated the immediate hit from surging prices as Russia curbed fuel exports to the West. The resulting budget deficits were promptly funded by the ECB, which meant that for all the posturing, Christine Lagarde was directly funding Putin's cash build up.

But the pass-throughs are ending, which means **that price increases will soon hit corporate profits across Europe by 1-1.5% and lead to lower investment, which in Germany's case would amount to 25 billion euros ($27 billion),** Allianz Trade estimated.

The silver lining is that German companies' finances are robust, while a state-imposed gas price cap would help (unless it makes things much worse).

At the same time, fears the crisis could lead to de-industrialisation and a loss of competitiveness against the United States were overdone, because labor costs and exchange rates have a bigger impact on manufacturing than energy prices, the study said. Also, while exporters were losing market shares in areas such as agrifood, machinery, electrical equipment, metals and transport, the **relative beneficiaries tended to be Asian, Middle Eastern and African,** not American, it added.

Meanwhile, the economic ministry said on Saturday that the German government's one-off payment to help private households and small businesses with gas prices - the first stage of a package that will be complemented with retroactive price caps kicking in in March - has cost 4.3 billion euros so far.

Berlin has earmarked 12 billion euros for the payment, but the ministry said 4.3 billion euros was not the final cost as many eligible firms had not yet applied for the aid. They have until the end of February to apply; and judging by the huge losses they still face, *they will.*

sanctions, china, government: jan30 US Halts New Licenses For Export To Huawei

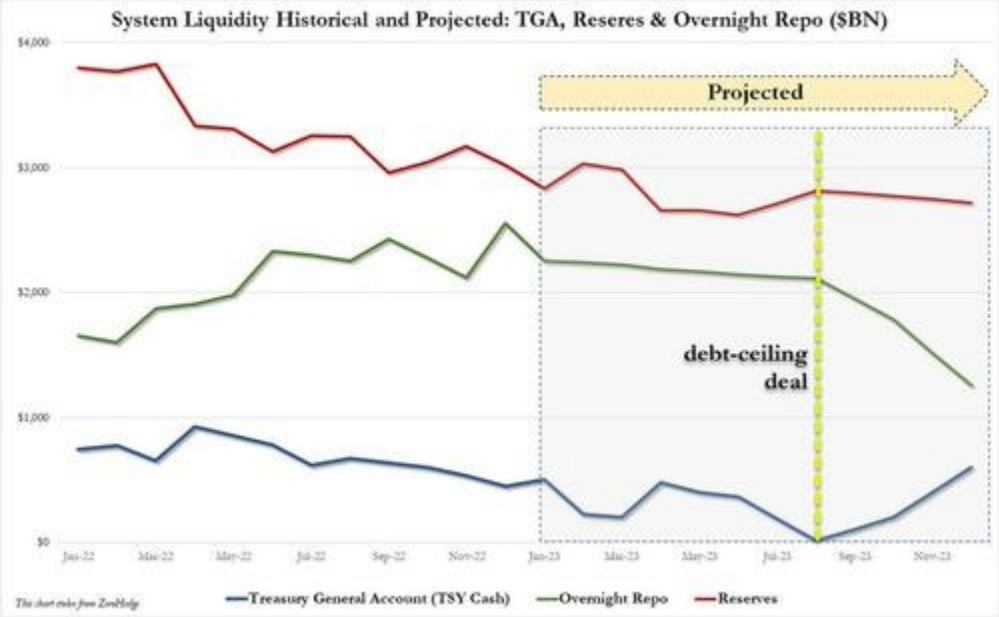
The Biden administration has halted the provision of licenses for US companies to export technology to Huawei, as it moves closer to imposing a total ban on the sale of American technology to the Chinese telecom equipment maker.

read later, government, inflation, journal:

Treasury Publishes Cash Balance Estimates As It Prepares To Drain $650 Billion To Offset Debt Ceiling

BY TYLER DURDEN
MONDAY, JAN 30, 2023 - 06:00 PM

Now that all eyes are on the Treasury General Account (or TGA, also known as Treasury cash parked at the Fed) which is viewed as an offset to Fed tightening - if only until the debt limit D-day is hit some time in August, as a rapid drain in Treasury cash offsets (i.e., adds liquidity) the Fed's QT which hopes to tighten financial conditions by draining both high-powered (reserves) and low-powerered (overnight repo) money equivalents as it shrinks its balance sheet (as explained in detail in "How The Coming Debt Ceiling Debacle Blew Up The Fed's QT, And What Happens Next")...



... today's quarterly announcement by the Treasury announcing its Marketable Borrowing Estimates was of particular interest as it showed what the most likely Trajectory of treasury cash balances will be over the next two quarters.

Cutting to the chase, here is the Treasury's sources and uses table...

Sources and Uses Reconciliation Table

Quarter	Announcement Date	Financing Need (1)	Financing: Marketable Borrowing (2)	Financing: All Other Sources (3)	Financing: Total (4) = (2) + (3)	Change in Cash Balance (5) = (4) - (1)	End-Of-Quarter Cash Balance (6)	Memo: SOMA Redemptions (7)
Oct - Dec 2022	Actual	453	457	(151)	307	(146)	636	(120)
	October 31, 2022	288	550	(197)	352	64	700	(139)
	Actual	368	373	(194)	179	(189)	447	(139)
	Forecast Revisions	80	(177)	3	(174)	(253)	(253)	0
Jan - Mar 2023	October 31, 2022	515	578	(263)	315	(200)	500	(221)
	January 30, 2023	609	932	(270)	662	53	500	(221)
	Forecast Revisions	95	355	(7)	347	253	0	0
Apr - Jun 2023	January 30, 2023	(5)	278	(233)	45	50	550	(180)

... for the January – March 2023 and April – June 2023 quarters, and it shows the following:

- **During the January – March 2023 quarter,** Treasury expects to borrow $932 billion in privately-held net marketable debt, assuming an end-of-March cash balance of $500 billion. The borrowing estimate is $353 billion higher than announced in October 2022, **primarily due to the lower beginning-of-quarter cash balance ($253 billion), and projections of lower receipts and higher outlays ($93 billion).**

- **During the April – June 2023 quarter,** Treasury expects to borrow $278 billion in privately-held net marketable debt, **assuming an end-of-June cash balance of $550 billion.**

  Before digging into these numbers, a quick look at what the Treasury did in the just completed fiscal Q1 2023 quarter:

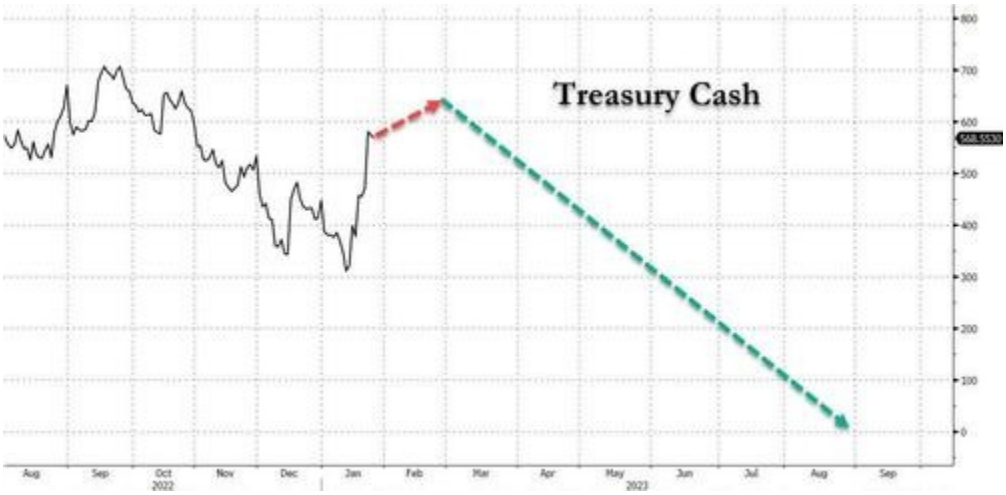
  During the October – December 2022 quarter, Treasury borrowed $373 billion in privately-held net marketable debt and ended the quarter with a cash balance of $447 billion. In October 2022, Treasury estimated borrowing of $550 billion and assumed an end-of-December cash balance of $700 billion. The $177 billion difference in privately-held net market borrowing resulted primarily from the lower end-of-quarter cash balance, somewhat offset by lower net fiscal flows.

  With that in mind, what is most notable about the numbers above is that all else equal, the Treasury expects a March cash balance of $500BN, followed by a $50BN build cash build in the Apr-Jun quarter which would be a material difference from assumptions of a rapid cash drain. There is just one problem: both those numbers are now meaningless as the Treasury itself admits in a footnote to the financing estimates...

  ... to wit:

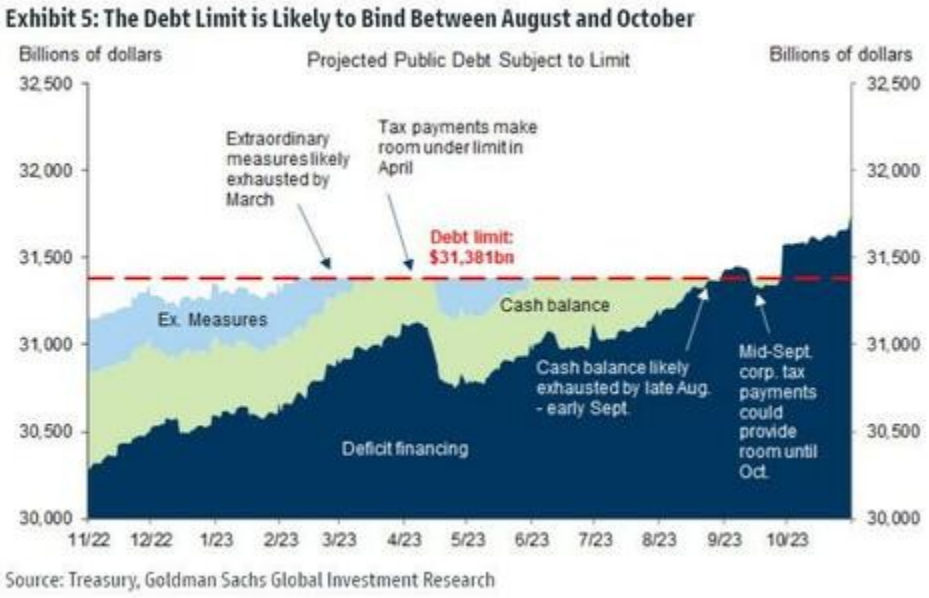
  The end-of-March and end-of-June cash balances **assume enactment of a debt limit suspension or increase. Treasury's cash balance may be lower than assumed depending on several factors, including constraints related to the debt limit.** If Treasury's cash balance for the end of either quarter is lower than assumed, and assuming no changes in the forecast of fiscal activity, Treasury would expect that borrowing would be lower by the corresponding amount

  In other words, today's financing estimates are devoid of any actual debt-limit signal, which - as the case may be - is the $32 trillion elephant in the room. So in lieu of that, we will instead go back to our preliminary analysis and update it for the recent spike in the TGA balance which has surged from $310BN when we looked at it last two weeks ago, to $568BN as of Friday's print. The jump is thanks to the various extraordinary measures - i.e., replacing non-marketable Treasuries in federal employee retirement funds with instruments that do not count toward the debt limit, or simple IOUs - and according to Goldman there is a total of $300BN or so in measures, meaning that the TGA may hit $650 billion by March. At that point, the Treasury would need to run down its cash balance to shrink bills outstanding. This sequence of events is shown in the chart below...



... and amounts to roughly ~$110 billion in liquidity added by the Treasury and offsetting the Fed's QT until the September debt ceiling D-Day.

It goes without saying, that should there be no deal after the drop dead date, and we don't mean a trillion dollar platinum coin...



... then all bets are off.

journal: jan30 so the weather has ....really gotten even crazier...everyone is just like WOW now...

Markets, stats, censorship: jan30 yeah yet rh moves the markets...pfft yeah ,right. "Add 4,281 Hedge Fund Clients to What Makes JPMorgan Chase the Riskiest Mega Bank in the U.S."

According to a Yale School of Management study, in 2013 JPMorgan Chase had 1,339 hedge fund clients. As of July of last year, that number had soared to 4,281 according to the annual Convergence Inc. study.
While Goldman Sachs and Morgan Stanley topped the total number of hedge fund clients (with 5,150 and 4,964, respectively) JPMorgan Chase ranked number one in terms of hedge fund Assets Under Advisement (AUA). (See Convergence Inc. study linked above.)

There's a big problem here that federal bank regulators are choosing to ignore at the peril of the U.S. financial system.

JPMorgan Chase, unlike Goldman Sachs and Morgan Stanley, is the largest federally insured, taxpayer backstopped, depository bank in the United States with more than $2.47 *trillion* in deposits as of June 30, 2022. Unfortunately, as a result of the repeal of the Glass-Steagall Act in 1999, this mom and pop depository bank with more than 5,000 Chase bank branches spread across the United States, is also allowed to make wild trading gambles. Those trading gambles have resulted in felony charges by the U.S. Department of Justice for rigging the foreign exchange markets, the U.S. Treasury market and the precious metals markets.
Even without the dramatic growth of its risky hedge fund business, JPMorgan Chase already ranked as the riskiest bank in the U.S. The data comes from the National Information Center, a repository of bank data collected by the Federal Reserve. The National Information Center is part of the Federal Financial Institutions Examination Council (FFIEC), which was created under federal legislation and imposes uniformity in how U.S. financial institutions are examined by federal banking regulators.
The National Information Center creates an annual profile of banks, measured by 12 systemic risk indicators. The data used to create these graphics come from the "Systemic Risk Report" or form FR Y-15 that banks are required to file with the Federal Reserve. To measure the systemic risk that a particular bank poses to the stability of the U.S. financial system, the data is broken down into five categories of system risk: size, interconnectedness, substitutability, complexity, and cross-jurisdictional activity. Those measurements consist of 12 pieces of financial information that banks are required to provide on their Y-15 forms.
The data for the period ending December 31, 2020 showed that in 8 out of 12 measurements – or two-thirds of all systemic risk measurements – JPMorgan Chase ranked at the top for having the riskiest footprint among its peer banks.

One of the 12 financial metrics is based on the Intra-Financial System Liabilities of each bank. This shows how much money a particular bank has at risk at other banks by using inputs such as how much of its funds it has on deposit with, or has been lent to, other financial institutions; the unused portion of any credit lines it has committed to other financial institutions; and its holdings of debt, equity,

commercial paper, etc. of other financial institutions. The idea is to understand the interconnectivity of systemically-risky megabanks and whether one distressed megabank could cause a daisy-chain of contagion with other megabanks — such as the contagion caused by Citigroup and Lehman Brothers during and after the financial crisis of 2008.

JPMorgan Chase's footprint for Intra-Financial System Liabilities is very large. The 2020 data show that JPMorgan Chase has $577 billion exposure in that category. That's an increase of $182 billion over what it showed in that category in 2019 – an increase of 46 percent in one year.

The Chairman and CEO of JPMorgan Chase, Jamie Dimon, likes to perpetually brag about the bank's "fortress balance sheet." Unfortunately, that bragging isn't supported by the bank's felony history or the fact that the bank lost $6.2 billion gambling in exotic derivatives in London during the leadership tenure of Dimon: the so-called "London Whale" scandal.
Then there is also the fact that the Federal Reserve has yet to explain why a unit of JPMorgan Chase (J.P. Morgan Securities) needed to secretly borrow a cumulative $2.59 *trillion* in emergency repo loans from the Fed in the last quarter of 2019 – long before the first case of COVID-19 appeared in the U.S. (See chart below.)
Perhaps it's time for the Senate Banking Committee to take a long, hard look at what's really under the hood of this banking behemoth.

War: jan30 full atw page (too much going on)

News

Updated January 30, 2023 - 2:13 PM EST

Zelensky: Ukraine Needs More Weapons, Faster

- ***NATO Official: 'Ready' for Direct Confrontation With Russia***
- ***Russia Accuses Ukraine of Hospital Strike Using US-Provided HIMARS***

Ten Killed in Airstrikes on Syria-Iraq Border

- ***Report: Israel Was Behind Attack on Iran Facility***
- ***Israeli Government Calls for Retribution After Jerusalem Shooting***

Air Force General Predicts War With China in 2025

- ***As NATO Chief Visits South Korea and Japan, China High on Agenda***

Suicide Bomber Kills 44, Wounds 150 at Pakistan Mosque

Erdogan Could OK Finland's NATO Bid Without Sweden

Switzerland Weighs Break With Policy of Neutrality

Viewpoints

The West Is Incentivizing Russia To Hit Back **by Caitlin Johnstone**

US Foreign Policy Establishment Proves in Ukraine That It Forgot Lessons of Vietnam **by James Carden**

US Is Sending Tanks to Ukraine. But Why? **by Ted Snider**

Beware the 'America First' Foreign Policy Phonies **by Andrew Earvolino**

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Spotlight

This Time It's Different
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Frontline

New Sen. JD Vance Leads GOP Effort to Put Ukraine Aid Under a Microscope

Guantanamo: Tumor Discovered on Detainee Ammar Al-Baluchi's Spine

In Meeting With CIA Chief, Abbas Calls for Pressure on Israeli Government

Poland Will Send 60 Additional Tanks to Ukraine

Palestine/Israel

Ben-Gvir to Propose Law Allowing Death Penalty for Palestinians

Israeli Nobel Laureate Says Judicial Overhaul Plan Would Mark 'The End of Democracy'

Israeli Settlers Carry Out 144 Attacks Against Palestinians in One Day

Siege Causes Shortage of X-Ray Machines in Gaza

Co-Founder of Jenin Brigade Succumbs to Wounds Sustained in Jenin Massacre

Israeli Soldiers Open Fire at Palestinian Journalists Covering

Ukraine

- How to Fix a Howitzer: US Offers Help Line to Ukraine Troops
- Ukraine Says It Repels Attack Around Blahodatne, Wagner Claims Control
- Heavy Fighting in Ukraine's Donetsk as Wagner Targets Village
- Ukraine Imposes Sanctions on 182 Russian, Belarusian Firms, Three People
- German Chancellor Scholz Doubles Down on Refusal of Fighter Jets for Ukraine
- Ukraine's Zelensky Attacks Effort to Allow Russia Back at Olympics

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- Russian Polar Research Vessel Docks in Cape Town
- Russia Blocks CIA, FBI Websites for 'Spreading False Information'

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- UK Army Spied on Covid Critics
- UK Court to Rule on Controversial Weapons Sales to Saudi Arabia

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- France Buys AT4 Anti-Armor Weapons From Saab for $26m
- Rheinmetall Eyes Boost in Munitions Output, HIMARS Production in Germany
- Italy's Eni Signs $8 Billion Gas Deal With Libya Amid Energy Crunch
- Norway Could Limit Electricity Exports to Avoid Shortages

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- Amid Economic Turmoil, Pakistan Hikes Up Fuel Prices
- Afghan Female Students Banned From University Entrance Exam

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- Two Indian Military Jets Crash After Apparent Midair Collision

- Indian Police Detain Students Over Modi Documentary Screenings
- Moderation a La Modi: Indian Government's Crackdown on BBC Documentary Backfires

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- China Says It Resumes Issuing Ordinary Visas for Japanese Citizens
- US, Allies Near Deal to Limit Chip Tech to China: Dutch Firm

Koreas

- North Korea Slams United States for Pledging Tanks to Ukraine
- S. Korea Mistakenly Fires Machine Gun Near Border With North
- North Korea Denies Arming Russia's Wagner Group

The War at Home

- Two More US Sailors Died by Suicide in the Last Month
- Troops Can't Get Discharge Forms or Retire Due to Army's HR Transition
- House Republicans Pass Bill to Limit Strategic Petroleum Reserve Moves

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- Bolsonaro's Son Dismisses Idea of Father's Extradition by US
- January 8 Investigation Targets Nephew of Brazil's Jair Bolsonaro

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- Senior Australian Ministers to Visit France, Britain to Boost Ties
- Radioactive Capsule's Loss in Western Australia Described as 'Highly Unusual'

war: jan30 Ten Reported Killed in Airstrikes on Syria-Iraq Border

Ten Reported Killed in Airstrikes on Syria-Iraq Border

Israel is suspected since it recently launched similar airstrikes targeting trucks in the same areaby Dave DeCamp Posted onJanuary 29, 2023CategoriesNewsTagsIraq, Syria

Airstrikes targeting a convoy of trucks launched by unidentified aircraft were reported on the Syria-Iraq border on Sunday.

According to *The Times of Israel*, Syria's Sham FM radio station and other local media reports said six refrigerator trucks were hit. The UK-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights (SOHR) also reported six refrigerator trucks were targeted and said they were hit in eastern Syria after crossing the border.

The SOHR later said 10 people were killed in the strikes and described them as "truck drivers and their assistants, all of them non-Syrians" and said the trucks were carrying Iranian weapons. Other reports contradicted the claim, with sources telling *Al-Mayadeen*, a Lebanon-based media outlet, that the convoy did "not carry any weapons."

The aircraft was unidentified, but Israel is suspected, as it has launched similar attacks in the past. In November, airstrikes hit a convoy of trucks entering Syria from Iraq, reportedly killing ten people. Israel's former army chief, Aviv Kohavi, later said Israel was responsible for the attack.

Kohavi, who just stepped down as the Israeli Defense Forces chief of staff, claimed a truck in the convoy that was hit in November was carrying weapons from Iran to Lebanon, while Syrian reports said it was carrying fuel.

Israel frequently launches airstrikes in Syria but rarely acknowledges individual strikes. The Israelis frame the operations as strikes against Iran and Hezbollah, but they often kill Syrian troops and damage civilian infrastructure.

War: jan30 NATO Official says they are "ready" for a direct confrontation with Russia; Adm. Rob Bauer Says NATO countries should discuss shifting to a 'war economy' to increase weapons production

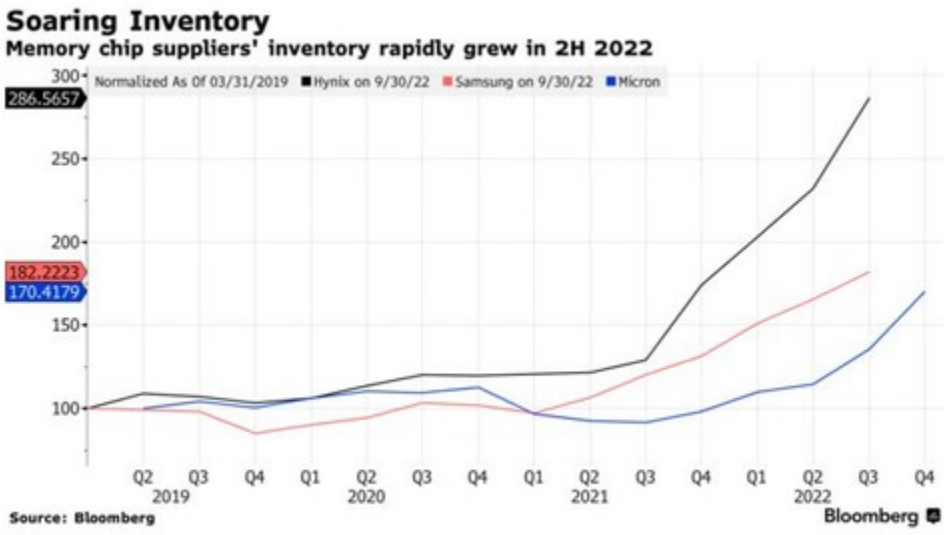
Rob Bauer, chairman of NATO's Military Committee, recently said that the alliance is "ready" for a direct confrontation with Russia as the country continues to fight in Ukraine.
Bauer, an admiral in the Royal Netherlands Navy, told a Portuguese television channel, RTP, that NATO is focused on rearmament as Russian President Vladimir Putin's strategic objectives go beyond Ukraine and could possibly expand to neighboring countries.

The chairman, who is reportedly advocating "peacetime war economy," added that it is important for NATO nations to direct civil industrial production towards military objectives.

"This Is Not A Normal Situation": A Semiconductor Rout Is On As Supply Balloons And Demand Dissipates

The memory chip sector, typically a volatile and cyclical sector, is in the midst of yet another rout.

But as Bloomberg noted this week, this rout wasn't supposed to happen. For years we had heard that the sector would eventually calm down and even out - and that volatility wouldn't be as pronounced due to steadier demand for things like 5G and cloud services.



Just months after a historic semiconductor shortage, there's a "glut of the chips sitting in warehouses" at the same time that customers are paring back on orders. We first identified the whipsaw in semiconductors all the way back in October 2022, which you can read about here.

Avril Wu, senior research vice president at TrendForce told Bloomberg this week: “The chip industry thought that suppliers were going to have better control. This downturn has proved everybody was wrong.”

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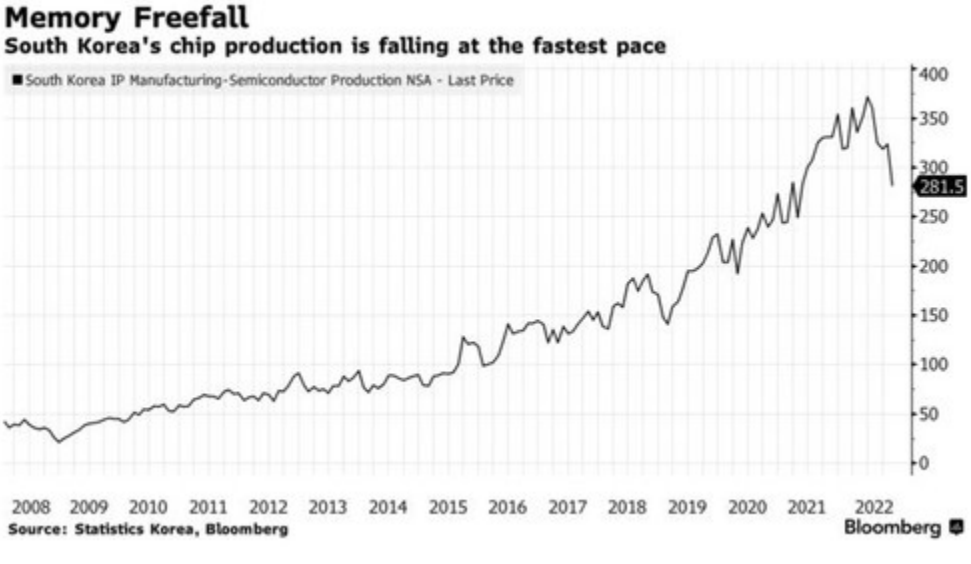
Avril Wu, senior research vice president at TrendForce told Bloomberg this week: “The chip industry thought that suppliers were going to have better control. This downturn has proved everybody was wrong.”

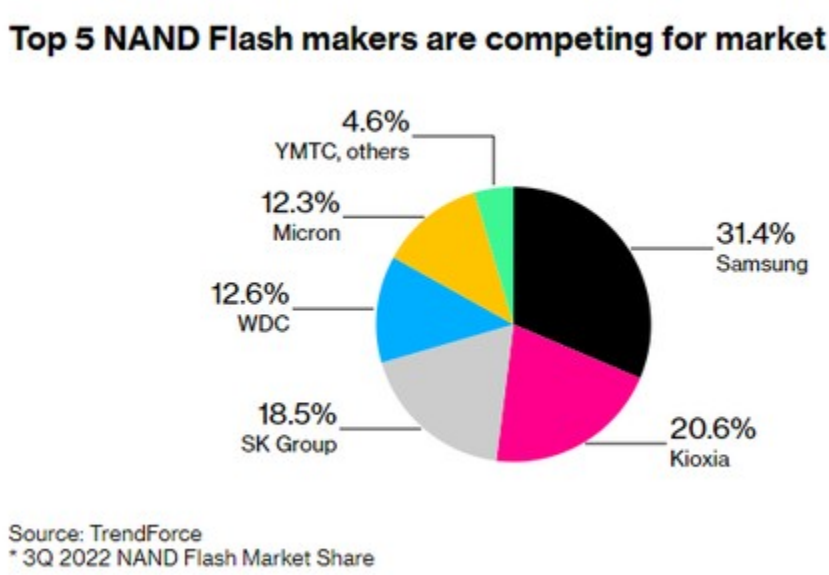
The report notes that the very same consumers who were keen to spend their stimulus money on things like cars and electronics during the pandemic, items which necessitate semiconductors, are now "holding off on big purchases as they cope with inflation and rising interest rates". And the pullback in demand comes just as semi companies sought to increase supply to try and deal with the shortages.

Companies like Samsung are now "losing money on every chip they produce", the report says. Collective operating losses are projected to hit a stunning $5 billion this year, it continues.



Greg Roh, head of technology research at HMC Investment & Securities, added: “Chip equipment companies’ sales are plunging by around 30% to 50%. This is not a normal situation."

“There will be pent-up demand for gadgets as well. Our view is that memory will recover in the second half," he added.



Micron is planning on cutting its budge for new plants and is rushing to curb output. The company's Chief Executive Officer Sanjay Mehrotra sid this week: “We have to get through this cycle. I believe the trend of cross-cycle growth and profitability is still in place.”

Just last week, Intel reported terrible earnings and catastrophic guidance as well. As shown below, at the low end of the forecast range, Intel’s revenue would be the smallest quarterly total since 2010.

The outlook reflects the myriad challenges facing Intel, which was attempting to stage a comeback even before the market for personal-computer chips — its

main source of revenue — fell into a slump. To get back on track, the company needs computer makers to quickly work through inventory stockpiles and return to ordering components. That would provide Intel with a revenue boost needed to help shore up its finances, which were already stretched by ambitious plans to regain technological leadership within the chip industry.

“We’ve seen extraordinary measures within the memory market. It’s at levels that we haven’t seen in 25 years,” said Lam CEO Tim Archer.

Shin Jinho, co-CEO of Midas International Asset Management added: “The NAND market is experiencing fierce competition and the recovery will follow one quarter after the DRAM market recovery. If the situation gets longer, eventually, we are going to see consolidation in the NAND market.”

All eyes are now on Samsung, Bloomberg says. It'll report on Tuesday this week and will offer additional color on the sector on its conference call.

War, china, sanctions, government, markets: jan30 Apple's expected to post its first revenue decline since 2019 on Thursday

War: jan30 Ukraine Says Expedited Talks For F-16 Jets Underway As Germany Counters 'Not An Option'

The Ukrainian presidency's office is saying that it is already engaged in expedited negotiations with the US regarding the possibility of supplying Kiev forces with long-range missiles and military jets. This despite German Chancellor Olaf Scholz, who was key in the decision of Berlin and Washington to approve tanks, earlier saying that sending jets is not an option.

Mykhailo Podolyak, an adviser to Zelesnky, was cited in *The Associated Press* on Saturday as saying that **"fast-track" talks are taking place for jets**, and which also focus on long-range missiles "to drastically curtail the key tool of the Russian army" by providing the ability to attack weapons warehouses far behind front lines.

Stats, tech: jan30 apples assault on third party repair shops

Apple has never looked too kindly upon users actually repairing their own devices. The company's ham-fisted efforts to shut down, sue, or otherwise imperil third-party repair shops are **legendary**. As are the company's efforts to force recycling shops to **shred Apple products** (so they can't be refurbished and re-used).

War: jan30 Scholz doubles down on refusal of fighter jets for Ukraine: 'The question of combat aircraft does not arise at all,' German chancellor tells Tagesspiegel.

Crypto, sanctions, Africa: jan30 bitcoin is officially 60% in nigeria due to localized demand

The price of one Bitcoin (BTC) in Nigeria has skyrocketed to the equivalent of $38,000 in the local currency, the naira...

The price of Bitcoin in Nigeria has skyrocketed to well above global market levels amid continued efforts by the central bank to push its citizens into digitalized cash.

At the time of writing, the price of 1 BTC on the Nigerian crypto exchange NairaEX is 17.8 million nairas, equating to a whopping $38,792.

This is more than a 60% premium over the current market price of Bitcoin, around $23,700 at the time of writing.

It comes as the Central Bank of Nigeria has continued to impose limits on ATM cash withdrawals amid an ongoing effort to accelerate its shift to a cashless society.

Earlier this month, the central bank imposed a limit on cash withdrawals following a December announcement.

As of Jan. 9, citizens are only allowed to withdraw a maximum of 20,000 nairas (around $43.50) from cash machines per day, with a weekly limit of 100,000 nairas (roughly $217).

The move also came just days before new naira banknotes went into circulation with the aim of curbing inflation and money laundering. The

central bank imposed a deadline of Jan. 24 for Nigerians to exchange their old, higher denomination bank notes for the new currency.

However, there were long queues and complaints that there was insufficient time to meet the deadline. The central bank has now extended that deadline to Feb. 10, the BBC reported on Jan. 29.

It is not the first time the Bitcoin premium has surged in Nigeria. In February 2021, the central bank banned regulated financial institutions from providing services to cryptocurrency exchanges in the country, driving the BTC premium as high as 36%.

The recent interest in Bitcoin has also seen Nigeria becoming the leading country for Bitcoin web searches, according to Google Trends.

Additionally, on Jan. 26 Reuters reported that the Central Bank of Nigeria launched a domestic card scheme to rival foreign cards like Mastercard and Visa.

The "AfriGo" card scheme was designed to give Nigerians better access to bank card services and circumvent often expensive foreign card fees and exchange costs.

Markets: jan30 nasdaq records best start in 20 years: sounds and looks like a textbook bear rally

War: jan30 strange internal memo in military: Air Force General Tells His Officers 'War With China' Only 2 Years Away

A four-star Air Force general sent a memo on Friday to the officers he commands that predicts the U.S. will be at war with China in two years and tells them to get ready to prep by firing "a clip" at a target, and "aim for the head."

In the memo sent Friday and obtained by NBC News, Gen. Mike Minihan, head of Air Mobility Command, said, ***"I hope I am wrong. My gut tells me will fight in 2025."***

Government, markets, energy: jan30 The five biggest oil majors in the world are expected to report record profits for 2022 in the coming days, for around $200 billion in combined yearly earnings thanks to the jump in oil and gas prices last year. This year, earnings at ExxonMobil, Chevron, BP, Shell, and TotalEnergies

The record quarterly earnings which the majors reported for the second and third quarters of 2022 have already drawn intense criticism from the White House, which has scrambled to have gasoline prices down from the record levels seen in June. The Biden Administration has accused Big Oil of “war profiteering” and has called on companies to invest in more supply or “face higher taxes.” In Europe, the record earnings are already subject to windfall taxes, which ExxonMobil has challenged in court.

The five oil and gas supermajors are expected to report at the end of January and early February combined 2022 earnings of $200 billion, according to early estimates compiled by S&P Capital IQ and cited by the Financial Times. Fourth-quarter earnings will still be well above year-ago levels, although lower than the record quarterly profits for Q2 and Q3.

The majors’ earnings for 2023 are set to drop from the 2022 record to around $150 billion, which – despite the decline – would be the second-highest profit haul for Big Oil, per projections by S&P Capital IQ.

War, Russia, energy: jan30 article has 260k views, 3000 comments on zh; top military official for the united states makes interesting comment: Until it decided to confront Moscow with an existential military threat in Ukraine, Washington confined the use of American military power to conflicts that Americans could afford to lose, wars with weak opponents in the developing world from Saigon to Baghdad that did not present an existential threat to U.S.

forces or American territory. This time - a proxy war with Russia - is different.

Douglas Abbott Macgregor (born January 4, 1953) is a retired U.S. Army colonel and government official, and an author, consultant, and television commentator.[1] He played a significant role on the battlefield in the 1990-91 Gulf War and the 1999 NATO bombing of Yugoslavia. His 1997 book Breaking the Phalanx established him as an influential if unconventional theorist of military strategy. His thinking contributed to the US strategy in its 2003 invasion of Iraq."

Contrary to early Beltway hopes and expectations, Russia neither collapsed internally nor capitulated to the collective West's demands for regime change in Moscow. Washington underestimated Russia's societal cohesion, its latent military potential, and its relative immunity to Western economic sanctions.

As a result, Washington's proxy war against Russia is failing. U.S. Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin was unusually candid about the situation in Ukraine when he told the allies in Germany at Ramstein Air Base on January 20, "We have a window of opportunity here, between now and the spring," admitting, "That's not a long time."

Alexei Arestovich, President Zelensky's recently fired advisor and unofficial "Spinmeister," was more direct. He expressed his own doubts that Ukraine can win its war with Russia and he now questions whether Ukraine will even survive the war. Ukrainian losses—at least 150,000 dead including 35,000 missing in action and presumed dead—have fatally weakened Ukrainian forces resulting in a fragile Ukrainian defensive posture that will likely shatter under the crushing weight of attacking Russian forces in the next few weeks.

Ukraine's materiel losses are equally severe. These include thousands of tanks and armored infantry fighting vehicles, artillery systems, air defense platforms, and weapons of all calibers. These totals include the equivalent of seven years of Javelin missile production. In a setting where Russian artillery systems can fire nearly 60,000 rounds of all types—rockets, missiles, drones, and hard-shell ammunition—a day, Ukrainian forces are hard-pressed to answer these Russian salvos with 6,000 rounds daily. New platform and ammunition packages for Ukraine may enrich the Washington community, but they cannot change these conditions.

Predictably, Washington's frustration with the collective West's failure to stem the tide of Ukrainian defeat is growing. In fact, the frustration is rapidly giving way to desperation.

Michael Rubin, a former Bush appointee and avid supporter of America's permanent conflicts in the Middle East and Afghanistan, vented his frustration in a *1945* article asserting that, "if the world allows Russia to remain a unitary state, and if it allows Putinism to survive Putin, then, Ukraine should be allowed to maintain its own nuclear deterrence, whether it joins NATO or not." On its

face, the suggestion is reckless, but the statement does accurately reflect the anxiety in Washington circles that Ukrainian defeat is inevitable.

NATO's members were never strongly united behind Washington's crusade to fatally weaken Russia. The governments of Hungary and Croatia are simply acknowledging the wider European public's opposition to war with Russia and lack of support for Washington's desire to postpone Ukraine's foreseeable defeat.

Though sympathetic to the Ukrainian people, Berlin did not support all-out war with Russia on Ukraine's behalf. Now, Germans are also uneasy with the catastrophic condition of the German armed forces.

Retired German Air Force General (four-star equivalent) Harald Kujat, former chairman of the NATO Military Committee, severely criticized Berlin for allowing Washington to railroad Germany into conflict with Russia, noting that several decades of German political leaders actively disarmed Germany and thus deprived Berlin of authority or credibility in Europe. Though actively suppressed by the German government and media, his comments are resonating strongly with the German electorate.

The blunt fact is that in its efforts to secure victory in its proxy war with Russia, Washington ignores historical reality. From the 13th century onward, Ukraine was a region dominated by larger, more powerful national powers, whether Lithuanian, Polish, Swedish, Austrian, or Russian.

In the aftermath of the First World War, abortive Polish designs for an independent Ukrainian State were conceived to weaken Bolshevik Russia. Today, Russia is not communist, nor does Moscow seek the destruction of the Polish State as Trotsky, Lenin, Stalin, and their followers did in 1920.

So where is Washington headed with its proxy war against Russia? The question deserves an answer.

On Sunday December 7, 1941, U.S. Ambassador Averell Harriman was with Prime Minister Sir Winston Churchill having dinner at Churchill's home when the BBC broadcast the news that the Japanese had attacked the U.S. Naval Base at Pearl Harbor. Harriman was visibly shocked. He simply repeated the words, "The Japanese have raided Pearl Harbor."

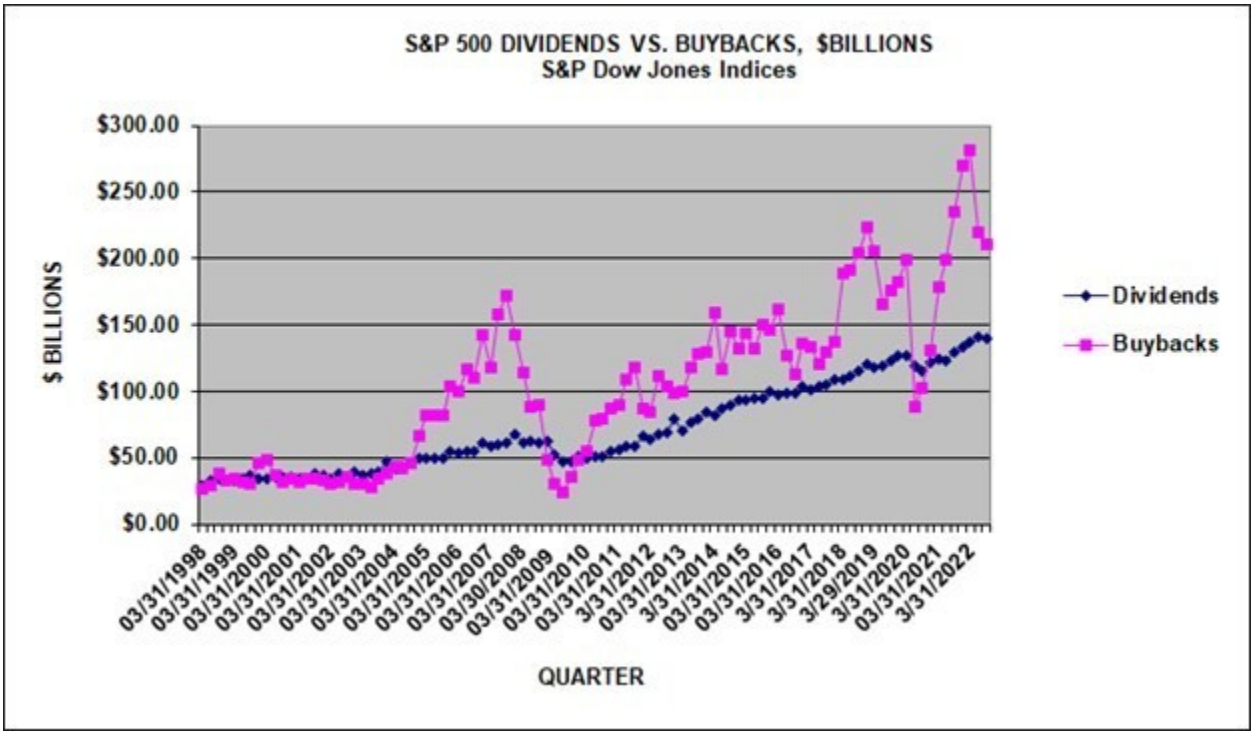
Harriman need not have been surprised. The Roosevelt administration had practically done everything in its power to goad Tokyo into attacking U.S. forces in the Pacific with a series of hostile policy decisions culminating in Washington's oil embargo during the summer of 1941.

In the Second World War, Washington was lucky with timing and allies. This time it's different. Washington and its NATO allies are advocating a full-blown war against Russia, the devastation and breakup of the Russian Federation, as well as the destruction of millions of lives in Russia and Ukraine.

Washington emotes. Washington does not think, and it is also overtly hostile to empiricism and truth. Neither we nor our allies are prepared to fight all-out war with Russia, regionally or globally. The point is, if war breaks out between Russia and the United States, Americans should not be surprised. The Biden administration and its bipartisan supporters in Washington are doing all they possibly can to make it happen.

Government, stats, markets: jan30 2022 buybacks up to q3: Jun 16, 2022: "S&P 500 Buybacks Set Quarterly and 12-Month Records" - Again

S&P 500 Buybacks Decline 4.0% but Energy Buybacks increase 64.5%; Proforma Buyback Tax Would Have Reduced Operating Earnings by 0.46%



- **Buybacks remained top heavy with the top 20 companies accounting for 49.0% of Q3 2022 buybacks,** an increase from Q2 2022's 46.8%, but down from the 53.8% in Q3 2021, and up from the pre-COVID historical average of 44.5%.

  Financials increased their buybacks after last quarter's significant pull back, as their Q3 2022 expenditures increased 8.5% to $23.0 billion, representing 10.9% of the buybacks, from the Q2 2022 $21.2 billion, which represented 9.7% of all buybacks, but was 62.8% less than their Q3 2021 expenditure of $61.9 billion.

- **For the 12-months ending September 2022, buybacks were $981.6 billion, down from the record $1.005 trillion posted for the June 2022 period, and up from the $742.2 billion spent in the September 2021 time period.**

- **Total shareholder returns for the 12-months ending September 2022 increased to a record $1.534 trillion** from the September 2021 $1.241 trillion.

S&P 500 Buybacks Decline 4.0% but Energy Buybacks increase 64.5%; Proforma Buyback Tax Would Have Reduced Operating Earnings by 0.46%

NEWS PROVIDED BY
S&P Dow Jones Indices
Dec 19, 2022, 09:30 ET

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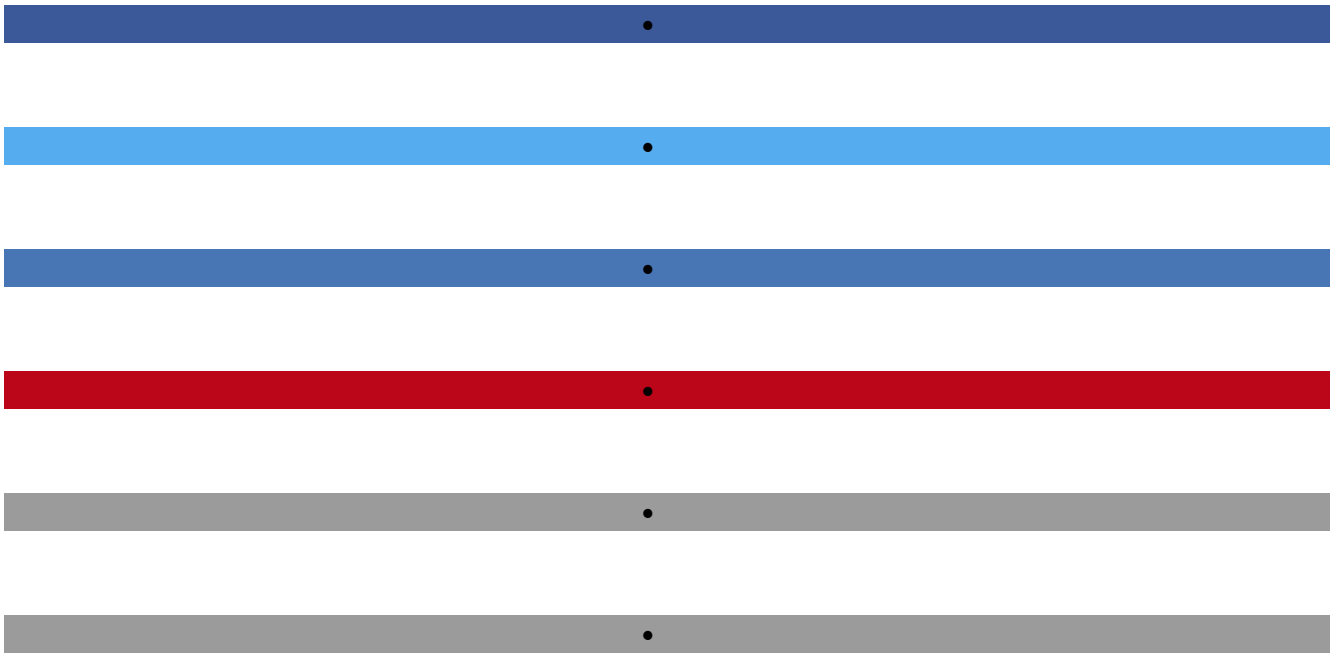


- **S&P 500 Q3 2022 buybacks were $210.8 billion, down 4.0% from Q2 2022's $219.6 billion, as participation declined**
- **Financials increased 8.5% from Q2, but remained down 62.8% from Q3 2021, as Energy went up 64.5% from Q2 and up 640% from Q3 2021**
- **On a proforma basis, the new net buyback 1% excise tax, which starts in 2023, would have reduced Q3 2022 operating earnings by 0.46%**

NEW YORK, Dec. 19, 2022 /PRNewswire/ -- S&P Dow Jones Indices ("S&P DJI") announced today preliminary S&P 500® stock buybacks, or share repurchases, data for Q3 2022.

Historical data on S&P 500 buybacks are available at www.spdji.com/indices/equity/sp-500.

Key Takeaways:

- **Q3 2022 share repurchases were $210.8 billion,** down 4.0% from Q2 2022's $219.6 billion expenditure and down 10.1% from Q3 2021's $234.6 billion.
- **319 companies reported buybacks of at least $5 million for the quarter**, down from 331 in Q2 2022 and up from 309 in Q3 2021; 384 companies did some buybacks for the quarter, the same as in Q2 2022 and up from 371 in Q3 2021; 441 companies did some buybacks for the 12-months ending September 2022, up from 424 in the prior 2021 period.
- **Buybacks remained top heavy with the top 20 companies accounting for 49.0% of Q3 2022 buybacks,** an increase from Q2 2022's 46.8%, but down from the 53.8% in Q3 2021, and up from the pre-COVID historical average of 44.5%.
- **For the 12-months ending September 2022, buybacks were $981.6 billion, down from the record $1.005 trillion posted for the June 2022 period, and up from the $742.2 billion spent in the September 2021 time period.**

- **21.2% of companies reduced share counts used for earnings-per-share (EPS) by at least 4% year-over-year**, up from Q2 2022's 19.8% and Q3 2021's 7.4%, and down from the pre-COVID Q3 2019 rate of 22.8%.
- **S&P 500 Q3 2022 dividends decreased 0.2% to $140.3 billion** from Q2 2022's record $140.6 billion and were 7.9% greater than the $130.0 billion in Q3 2021. For the 12-months ending September 2022, dividends were a record $552.4 billion, up 10.7% on an aggregate basis from the 12-month's September 2021's $498.9 billion.
- **Total shareholders return of buybacks and dividends declined to $351.2 billion in Q3 2022,** down 2.5% from Q2 2022's $360.2 billion and down 3.7% from Q3 2021's $364.7 billion.
- **Total shareholder returns for the 12-months ending September 2022 increased to a record $1.534 trillion** from the September 2021 $1.241 trillion.
- **On a proforma basis, the new 1% excise tax on net buybacks, which will start in 2023, would have reduced the Q3 2022 S&P 500 operating earnings by 0.46% and as reported GAAP earnings by 0.52%; for 2021 it would have reduced operating by 0.45% and as reported GAAP by 0.47%.**

"Companies, led by Financials, continued to pull back from their Q1 record-breaking buyback expenditures. However, energy has reentered the market at a time when the sector's shares are up substantially for the year," said **Howard Silverblatt, Senior Index Analyst at S&P Dow Jones Indices.** "The math of lower stock prices has resulted in more shares repurchased with 21.2% of the companies in the S&P 500 increasing their earnings-per-share by at least 4% thanks to their newly lowered share counts. The impact is expected to increase in Q4 2022 as companies appear to have accelerated their buybacks from Q1 2023 to Q4 2022 to avoid the new buyback tax."

1% Buyback Excise Tax for 2023:

On a proforma basis, the new 1% excise tax on net buybacks would have reduced Q3 2022 operating earnings by 0.46%, down from the proforma 0.48% for Q3 2021, with as reported GAAP earnings being reduced by 0.52%, up from the proforma 0.50% for Q3 2021. For the proforma 12-months period ending in September 2022, the tax would have cost S&P 500 companies $9.0 billion, and would have reduced operating earnings by 0.53% and as reported GAAP earnings by 0.57%.

Silverblatt added: "While going from zero to anything is the biggest increase, the 1% tax is an additional cost, but it is still not significant enough to impact overall buybacks at this point. However, some buybacks planned for 2023 appear to have been moved into Q4 2022. The buyback tax had bipartisan support, so there is a good possibility that the 1% level is only the opening rate, which if increased enough could shift some of the shareholder returns to dividends."

Q3 2022 GICS® Sector Analysis :

Information Technology continued to lead in buybacks, as its percentage of buybacks and aggregate expenditures decreased. In Q3 2022, IT's share decreased to 28.8% of all S&P 500 buybacks compared to Q2 2022's 32.8% and Q3 2021's 28.2%, as expenditures decreased (15.5%) to $60.8 billion from the prior quarter's $72.0 billion and were 8.0% lower than the Q3 2021 expenditure of $66.1 billion. For the 12-months ending September 2022, the sector spent $279.2 billion, representing 28.4% of all S&P buybacks, compared to the 2021 12-month $241.3 billion expenditure, which represented 32.5% of all buybacks. For the 10-years, the sector spent $1.857 trillion, representing 29.0% of the expenditures.

Financials increased their buybacks after last quarter's significant pull back, as their Q3 2022 expenditures increased 8.5% to $23.0 billion, representing 10.9% of the buybacks, from the Q2 2022 $21.2 billion, which represented 9.7% of all buybacks, but was 62.8% less than their Q3 2021 expenditure of $61.9 billion.

Energy continued to increase their buybacks, as they increased their expenditures by 64.5% for the quarter, to $22.0 billion (on a sector basis, second only to its Q4 2007 $25.3 billion expenditure), from the prior quarter's $13.4 billion and were up 640% from the Q3 2021 $3.0 billion. For the 12-months, buybacks were $51.6 billion compared to the prior period's $5.4 billion, an 853% increase.

Health Care buybacks increased 17.2% (after decreasing 58.2% last quarter), spending $20.2 billion in Q3 2022, representing 9.6% of all buybacks, up from the Q2 2022 $17.2 billion, which accounted for 7.8% of the buybacks, and were 24.6% higher than the Q3 2021 expenditure of $16.2 billion.

Issues:

The five issues with the highest total buybacks for Q3 2022 are:

- **Apple (AAPL)**: continued to be the poster child for buybacks as it once again spent the most of any issue, with its Q3 2022 expenditure ranking as the third highest in S&P 500 history. For the quarter, the company spent $24.7 billion, up 0.7% from Q2 2022's $24.6 billion. Apple holds 18 of the top 20 record quarters (Meta Platforms holds #11 and QUALCOMM holds #12). For the 12-months ending September 2022, Apple spent $95.6 billion on buybacks, up from the prior 12-month's $92.5 billion. Over the five-year period, they have spent $409.1 billion and $582.0 billion over the ten-year period.
- **Alphabet (GOOG/L)**: was next with $15.4 billion for Q3 2022, up from $15.2 billion in Q2 2022; the 12-month September 2022 expenditure was $57.4 billion versus the 12-month September 2021 expenditure of $44.7 billion.
- **Meta Platforms (META)**: $7.4 billion for Q3 2022, up from $6.2 billion in Q2 2022; the 12-month September 2022 expenditure was $45.6 billion versus $31.5 billion.
- **Microsoft (MSFT)**: $5.6 billion for Q3 2022, down from $8.8 billion in Q2 2022; the 12-month September 2022 expenditure was $30.6 billion versus $28.3 billion.
- **Exxon Mobile (XOM)**: returning to the top five for the first time since Q3 2014, the former poster child of buybacks spent $4.5 billion in Q3 2022, up from $3.9 billion in Q2 2022 and nothing in Q3 2021; the 12-month September 2022 expenditure was $10.6 billion versus $0.1 billion.

For more information about S&P Dow Jones Indices, please visit www.spdji.com.

S&P Dow Jones Indices S&P 500, $ U.S. BILLIONS			**(preliminary in bold) AS REPORTED**						
PERIOD	**MARKET VALUE** $ BILLIONS	**OPERATING EARNINGS** $ **BILLIONS**	**EARNINGS** $ **BILLIONS**	**DIVIDENDS** $ **BILLIONS**	**BUYBACKS** $ **BILLIONS**	**DIVIDEND YIELD**	**BUYBACK YIELD**	**DIVIDEND & BUYBACK YIELD**
12 Mo Sep,'22 Prelim.	$30,119	**$1,716.39**	**$1,577.81**	$552.40	**$981.59**	1.83 %	**3.26 %**	**5.09 %**
12 Mo Sep,'21	$36,538	$1,604.21	$1,483.50	$498.95	$742.21	1.37 %	2.03 %	3.40 %
2021	$40,356	$1,738.62	$1,652.78	$511.23	$881.72	1.27 %	2.18 %	3.45 %

2020	$31,659	$1,019.04	$784.21	$483.18	$519.76	1.53 %	1.64 %	3.17 %
2019	$26,760	$1,304.76	$1,158.22	$485.48	$728.74	1.81 %	2.72 %	4.54 %
2018	$21,027	$1,281.66	$1,119.43	$456.31	$806.41	2.17 %	3.84 %	6.01 %
9/30/2022 Prelim.	$30,119	**$423.86**	**$372.20**	$140.34	**$210.84**	1.83 %	**3.26 %**	**5.09 %**
6/30/2022	$31,903	$395.02	$360.21	$140.56	$219.64	1.70 %	3.15 %	4.85 %
3/31/2022	$38,288	$417.16	$388.68	$137.60	$281.01	1.37 %	2.57 %	3.94 %
12/31/2021	$40,356	$480.35	$456.72	$133.90	$270.10	1.27 %	2.18 %	3.45 %
9/30/2021	$36,538	$441.26	$420.64	$130.04	$234.64	1.37 %	2.03 %	3.40 %
6/30/2021	$36,325	$439.95	$409.02	$123.38	$198.84	1.33 %	1.68 %	3.01 %
3/31/2021	$33,619	$401.19	$388.84	$123.91	$178.13	1.43 %	1.48 %	2.91 %
12/31/2020	$31,659	$321.81	$265.00	$121.62	$130.59	1.53 %	1.64 %	3.17 %
9/30/2020	$27,868	$314.06	$273.29	$115.54	$101.79	1.75 %	2.05 %	3.80 %
6/30/2020	$25,637	$221.53	$147.44	$119.04	$88.66	1.93 %	2.52 %	4.45 %
3/31/2020	$21,420	$161.64	$98.48	$126.98	$198.72	2.31 %	3.37 %	5.68 %
12/31/2019	$26,760	$324.52	$294.29	$126.35	$181.58	1.81 %	2.72 %	4.54 %
9/30/2019	$24,707	$330.42	$282.12	$123.12	$175.89	1.94 %	3.12 %	5.06 %
6/28/2019	$24,423	$333.26	$290.00	$118.68	$165.46	1.93 %	3.27 %	5.20 %
3/29/2019	$23,619	$316.56	$291.82	$117.33	$205.81	1.97 %	3.49 %	5.45 %
12/31/2018	$21,027	$293.82	$242.91	$119.81	$222.98	2.17 %	3.84 %	6.01 %
9/30/2018	$24,579	$349.04	$306.70	$115.72	$203.76	1.81 %	2.93 %	4.75 %

S&P Dow Jones Indices

S&P 500 SECTOR BUYBACKS

SECTOR $ MILLIONS	**Q3,'22**	**Q2,'22**	**Q3,'21**	**12MoSep,'22**	**12MoSep,'21**	**5-YEARS**	**10-YEARS**
Consumer Discretionary	$19,542	$27,639	$20,553	$106,308	$64,528	$367,413	$778,679
Consumer Staples	$11,316	$10,662	$8,337	$43,213	$35,599	$167,612	$393,701
Energy	$22,014	$13,383	$2,974	$51,563	$5,410	$115,340	$234,190
Financials	$23,027	$21,216	$61,927	$150,447	$152,693	$732,867	$1,167,286
Healthcare	$20,152	$17,201	$16,170	$100,327	$69,336	$417,096	$757,813

Industrials	$17,113	$17,834	$17,567	$75,960	$53,241	$305,788	$636,115
Information Technology	$60,771	$71,956	$66,060	$279,174	$241,262	$1,205,391	$1,857,180
Materials	$5,678	$8,726	$5,252	$31,082	$16,534	$85,303	$152,772
Real Estate	$793	$1,127	$272	$3,696	$1,473	$14,411	$17,700
Communication Services	$30,297	$29,441	$35,230	$137,113	$100,860	$361,276	$390,032
Utilities	$140	$453	$299	$2,710	$1,272	$12,590	$18,598
TOTAL	**$210,843**	**$219,637**	**$234,640**	**$981,593**	**$742,209**	**$3,785,087**	**$6,404,065**

SECTOR BUYBACK MAKEUP %	**Q3,'22**	**Q2,'22**	**Q3,'21**	**12MoSep,'22**	**12MoSep,'21**	**5-YEARS**	**10-YEARS**
Consumer Discretionary	9.27 %	12.58 %	8.76 %	10.83 %	8.69 %	9.71 %	12.16 %
Consumer Staples	5.37 %	4.85 %	3.55 %	4.40 %	4.80 %	4.43 %	6.15 %
Energy	10.44 %	6.09 %	1.27 %	5.25 %	0.73 %	3.05 %	3.66 %
Financials	10.92 %	9.66 %	26.39 %	15.33 %	20.57 %	19.36 %	18.23 %
Healthcare	9.56 %	7.83 %	6.89 %	10.22 %	9.34 %	11.02 %	11.83 %
Industrials	8.12 %	8.12 %	7.49 %	7.74 %	7.17 %	8.08 %	9.93 %
Information Technology	28.82 %	32.76 %	28.15 %	28.44 %	32.51 %	31.85 %	29.00 %
Materials	2.69 %	3.97 %	2.24 %	3.17 %	2.23 %	2.25 %	2.39 %
Real Estate	0.38 %	0.51 %	0.12 %	0.38 %	0.20 %	0.38 %	0.28 %
Communication Services	14.37 %	13.40 %	15.01 %	13.97 %	13.59 %	9.54 %	6.09 %
Utilities	0.07 %	0.21 %	0.13 %	0.28 %	0.17 %	0.33 %	0.29 %
TOTAL	100.00 %	100.00 %	100.00 %	100.00 %	100.00 %	100.00 %	100.00 %

S&P Dow Jones Indices

S&P 500 20 LARGEST Q3 2022 BUYBACKS, $ MILLIONS

Company	**Ticker**	**Sector**	**Q3 2022 Buybac**	**Q2 2021 Buybac**	**Q3 20221 Buyback**	**12-Months Sep,'22**	**12-Months Sep,'21**	**5-Year Buybac**	**10-Year Buyback**	**Indicated Divide**

			ks $ Million	ks $ Million	s $ Million	$ Million	$ Million	ks $ Million	s $ Million	nd $ Million
Apple	AAPL	Information Technology	$24,736	$24,562	$20,449	$95,625	$92,527	$409,123	$582,041	$13,898
Alphabet	GOOGL	Communication Services	$15,392	$15,197	$12,610	$57,362	$44,705	$154,884	$163,102	$0
Meta Platforms	META	Communication Services	$7,365	$6,235	$15,033	$45,600	$31,532	$108,389	$115,597	$0
Microsoft	MSFT	Information Technology	$5,573	$8,757	$7,684	$30,585	$28,326	$116,316	$172,130	$20,285
Exxon Mobil	XOM	Energy	$4,494	$3,919	$0	$10,634	$101	$12,492	$52,459	$15,170
Procter & Gamble	PG	Consumer Staples	$4,000	$1,250	$2,750	$11,253	$11,759	$41,922	$64,291	$8,722
Lowe's Companies	LOW	Consumer Discretionary	$3,999	$4,091	$2,825	$16,140	$12,442	$37,598	$56,537	$2,684
Marathon Petroleum	MPC	Energy	$3,908	$0	$928	$9,496	$1,912	$16,395	$24,603	$1,496
NVIDIA	NVDA	Information Technology	$3,779	$3,650	$439	$10,579	$1,508	$16,000	$20,789	$401
Chevron	CVX	Energy	$3,697	$1,689	$618	$5,386	$618	$12,124	$22,210	$10,229
Comcast	CMCSA	Communication Services	$3,525	$3,065	$1,660	$11,868	$2,722	$22,066	$45,381	$4,756
Cigna	CI	Health Care	$3,500	$1,006	$2,611	$7,295	$8,011	$20,758	$26,260	$1,367
Walmart	WMT	Consumer Staples	$2,961	$3,339	$2,168	$11,127	$8,807	$35,887	$65,594	$3,193
ConocoPhillips	COP	Energy	$2,804	$2,300	$1,243	$7,928	$2,390	$18,500	$20,690	$2,597
Morgan Stanley	MS	Financials	$2,608	$2,837	$3,628	$11,973	$9,278	$35,895	$47,763	$4,151
S&P Global	SPGI	Financials	$2,512	$1,508	$10	$11,091	$60	$15,557	$19,970	$1,158
Charter Commun	CHTR	Communication Services	$2,225	$3,687	$3,666	$13,842	$15,183	$51,132	$60,521	$0
Johnson & Johnson	JNJ	Health Care	$2,165	$973	$391	$5,711	$2,781	$24,821	$55,373	$11,884
Visa	V	Information Technology	$2,106	$2,434	$2,969	$11,709	$8,820	$44,807	$71,674	$2,943
Union Pacific	UNP	Industrials	$2,024	$290	$1,361	$6,942	$6,595	$31,653	$46,843	$3,247
Top 20			**$103,373**	**$90,789**	**$83,043**	**$392,146**	**$290,077**	**$1,226,312**	**$1,733,828**	**$108,182**
S&P 500			**$210,843**	**$219,637**	**$234,640**	**$981,593**	**$742,209**	**$3,785,087**	**$6,404,065**	**$568,648**
Top 20 % of S&P 500			**49.03 %**	**41.34 %**	**35.39 %**	**39.95 %**	**39.08 %**	**32.40 %**	**27.07 %**	**19.02 %**

Gross values are not adjusted for float

S&P Dow Jones Indices

S&P 500 Q3 2022 Buyback Report

SECTOR	DIVIDEND YIELD	BUYBACK YIELD	COMBINED YIELD
Consumer Discretionary	1.03 %	3.17 %	4.20 %
Consumer Staples	2.56 %	1.87 %	4.43 %
Energy	3.66 %	3.26 %	6.92 %
Financials	2.14 %	4.00 %	6.14 %
HealthCare	1.60 %	1.93 %	3.53 %
Industrials	1.69 %	2.70 %	4.39 %
Information Technology	1.12 %	3.20 %	4.32 %
Materials	2.06 %	3.46 %	5.52 %
Real Estate	3.38 %	0.41 %	3.79 %
Communications Services	1.40 %	7.01 %	8.41 %
Utilities	3.00 %	0.27 %	3.27 %
S&P 500	1.75 %	3.02 %	4.76 %

Uses full values (unadjusted for float)

Dividends based on indicated; buybacks based on the last 12-months ending Q3,'22

Share Count Changes (Y/Y diluted shares used for EPS)

	>=4%	<=-4%
Q3 2022	7.21 %	21.24 %
Q2 2022	8.42 %	19.84 %
Q1 2022	7.62 %	17.64 %
Q4 2021	10.06 %	14.89 %
Q3 2021	10.22 %	7.41 %
Q2 2021	11.02 %	5.41 %
Q1 2021	10.40 %	5.80 %
Q4 2020	9.02 %	6.01 %
Q3 2020	8.62 %	9.62 %
Q2 2020	8.60 %	17.80 %
Q1 2020	8.00 %	19.60 %
Q4	7.63	20.68

2019	%	%
Q3	8.62	22.85
2019	%	%

Journal, energy: jan30 TSVETANA PARASKOVA, top ranked writer on top ranked energy markets website in the united states appears to be using a 'pen name'. Why are all these indepth markets writers always anonymous; zh being the obvious first example that should come to mind.

India, markets, war: jan30 now 68 billion loss...lol.massive indian conglomerate...Adani Wipeout Hits $68 Billion; Despite Turmoil, UAE Sees Investment Opportunity

Markets, war, india: jan29 Adani Publishes 413-Page Report Saying Hindenburg's Short Attack Is 'Calculated' Fraud; report led to a $50 billion selloff in Adani's corporate empire.

US short-seller Hindenburg Research and Indian billionaire Gautam Adani are locked in an epic game of ping pong as both throw barbs at each other.

Last week, Hindenburg published a 100-page report alleging Adani's company Adani Enterprises Ltd. is built on accounting fraud, while Adani's legal team called the short report "maliciously mischievous and unresearched."

Hindenburg's report led to a $50 billion selloff in Adani's corporate empire.

Markets, war: jan29 Massive Fire Destroys Commercial Egg Farm Belonging To Top US Supplier

Dozens of food processing plants were destroyed and/or damaged last year by "accidental fires." After several months of a lull in mysterious fires rippling

through the food industry, the first major one of the new year was reported by NBC Connecticut on Saturday.

More than 100 firefighters battled a massive fire at a commercial egg farm in Bozrah, Connecticut, on Saturday afternoon.

According to Epoch Times, firefighters spent hours extinguishing a 150-foot-by-400-foot chicken coop at Hillandale Farms, which contained about 100,000 chickens.

A Salvation Army canteen truck was on the scene, providing food. According to the Salvation Army, about 100,000 chickens may have died in the fire. It also said that no injuries had been reported.

Here's the video of the fire:

Crypto, markets: jan29 "HODLers Held The Line" - Bitcoin Tops $24k As "Capitulation Has Clearly Unfolded"

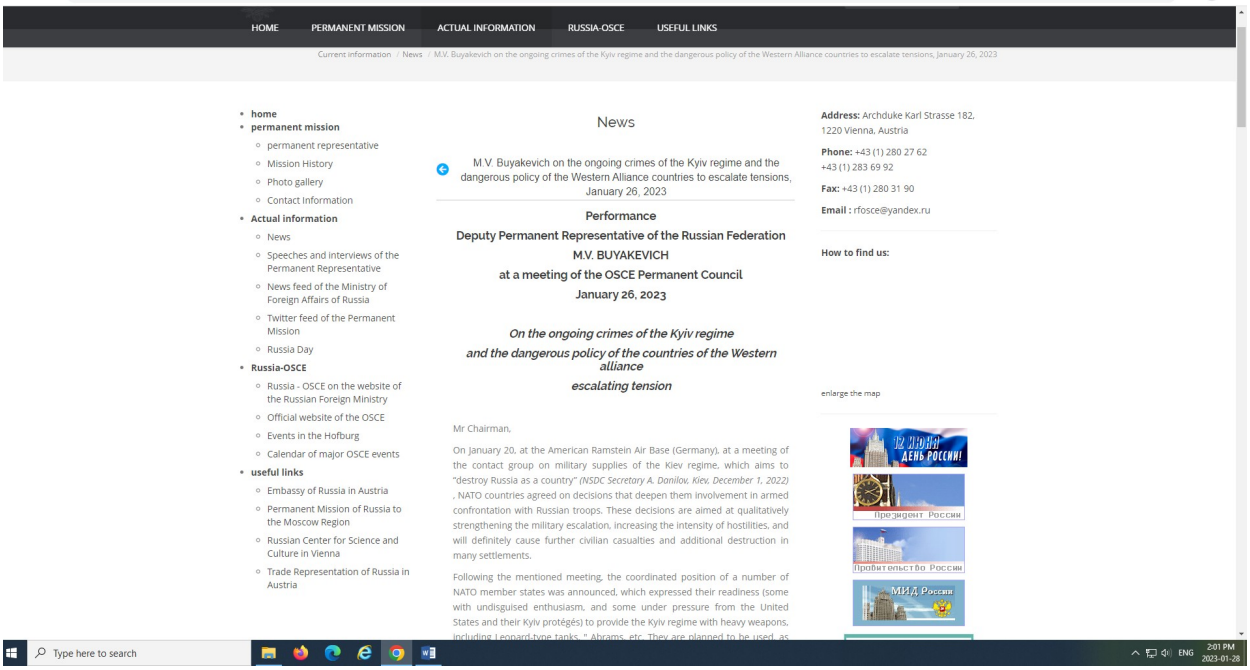
Government, inflation: jan29 Millions To See Food Stamp Payment Decrease After February, Federal Agency Says

*"**All SNAP households have or will see a decrease to the SNAP benefits** they receive when emergency allotments end..."*

Government, inflation: jan28 "It's The Perfect Storm": More Americans Can't Afford Their Car Payments Than During The Peak Of Financial Crisis

Jeremy Cross, the president of International Recovery Systems in Pennsylvania, said he can’t find enough repo men to meet the demand or space to hold all the cars his company has been tasked with repossessing

Russia Warns of ‘Full-Blown Conflict in Europe’: “The leaders of the US and their NATO client states have come close to a red line. Their deliberate actions to escalate the military confrontation in Ukraine – provoking the regime into military action against the Russian population using Western heavy weapons and NATO intelligence – is a direct path to a full-blown military conflict in Europe,” he said, arguing that all people on the continent “definitely stand to lose” from such a war.; “Their masks have long been thrown off. They are no longer embarrassed to say directly that this is not at all about the struggle for some kind of Ukrainian statehood, but about the promotion of the ‘rules-based world order’ being formed by the West,” Buyakevich continued, citing recent comments by German Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock, who declared that “we are fighting a war against Russia” earlier this week.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M.V. Buyakevich on the ongoing crimes of the Kyiv regime and the dangerous policy of the Western Alliance countries to escalate tensions, January 26, 2023
Performance
Deputy Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation
M.V. BUYAKEVICH
at a meeting of the OSCE Permanent Council
January 26, 2023
On the ongoing crimes of the Kyiv regime
and the dangerous policy of the countries of the Western alliance
escalating tension
Mr Chairman,
On January 20, at the American Ramstein Air Base (Germany), at a meeting of the contact group on military supplies of the Kiev regime, which aims to "destroy Russia as a country" (NSDC Secretary A. Danilov, Kiev, December 1, 2022) , NATO countries agreed on decisions that deepen them involvement in armed confrontation with Russian troops. These decisions are aimed at qualitatively strengthening the military escalation, increasing the intensity of hostilities, and will definitely cause further civilian casualties and additional destruction in many settlements.
Following the mentioned meeting, the coordinated position of a number of NATO member states was announced, which expressed their readiness (some with undisguised enthusiasm, and some under pressure from the United States and their Kyiv protégés) to provide the Kyiv regime with heavy weapons, including Leopard-type tanks, " Abrams, etc. They are planned to be used, as
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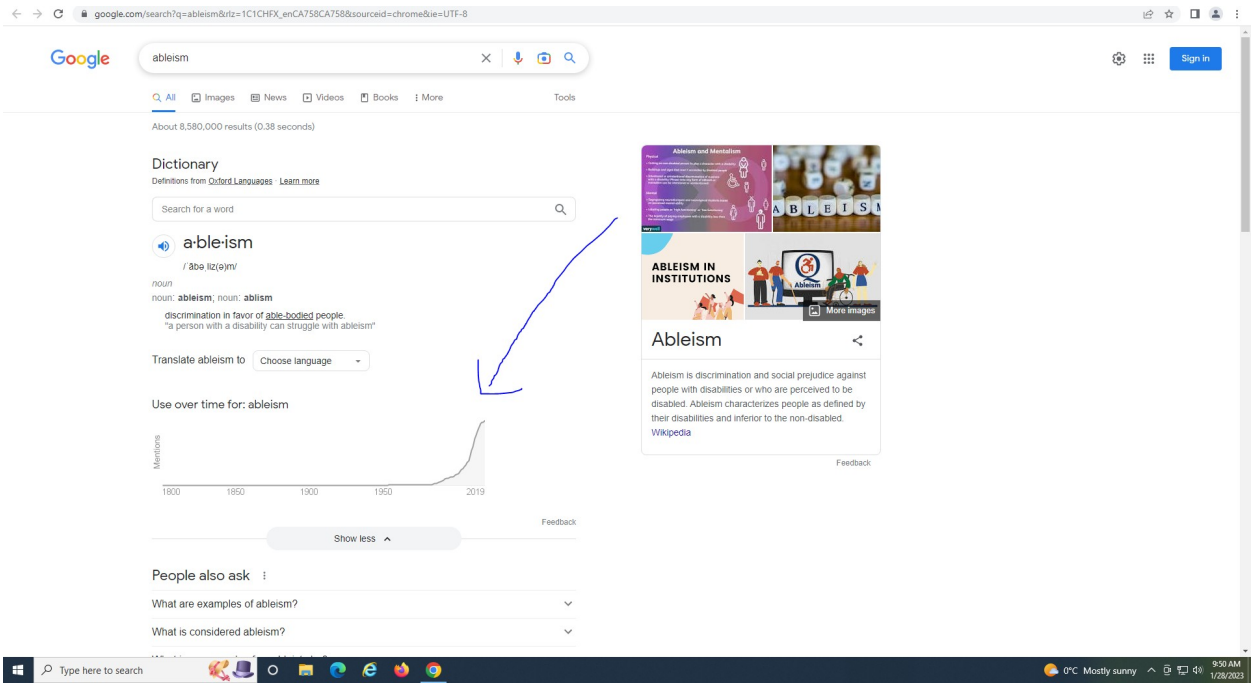
2023-01-28

Stats, censorship: jan28 ableism……is now offensive at universities……definition of ableism, a word that I didn't know existed until i read this article:"discrimination in favor of able-bodied people. "a person with a disability can struggle with ableism""

The University of Aberdeen in Scotland put a trigger warning on “Beowulf” due to its depictions of “animal cruelty” and “ableism.” Beowulf had to fear “a creature of darkness, exiled from happiness and accursed of God, the destroyer and devourer of our human kind.” However, Aberdeen students have the added fear that they may run across depictions from 975 which “place value on people’s bodies and minds based on societally constructed ideas of normality, intelligence, excellence, desirability, and productivity.” [Notably, even that definition is preceded at Stanford by a trigger warning that “*Content warning*: The following page contains content including the historical context of ableism. It may be disturbing to those with a history of institutionalization or other negative experiences in the medical world concerning their specific disabilities.”]



Even the death of an albatross in “Rime of the Ancient Mariner” required a trigger warning at the University of Greenwich as “potentially upsetting.”

There is trigger warning imposed by the University of Warwick for Thomas Hardy’s “Far From the Madding Crown” because of its depiction of “rural life.”

Of course, the British are not alone in such warnings. The National Archives recently moved to add trigger warnings to displays on our founders and founding documents.

Trigger warning: I am about to quote Shakespeare….

This all proves the Bard’s point that ***“Nothing routs us but the villainy of our fears.”***

many universities have added trigger warnings to classic works of literature in order to warn students that they contain racist or homophobic language

Students warned tragedy may be too ‘triggering’

University of Derby staff tell students that the genre is 'obsessed with violence and suffering, often of a sexual or graphic kind'

By Craig Simpson 25 January 2023 • 10:39am

Shakespeare's King Lear is one of the plays taught on the literature module CREDIT: Johan Persson

Tragedy may be too “triggering” for modern students, academics have warned.

The dramatic art form has entranced audiences from Ancient Greece to the Shakespearean stage, but has now been deemed potentially upsetting by staff at the University of Derby.

Students embarking on a literature module covering tragedy, including celebrated examples like Hamlet and King Lear, are warned that the genre is “obsessed… with suffering” and could prove “triggering”.

Athenian dramas concerning the deaths of mythical kings, and Arthur Miller’s classic Death of a Salesman, are also on the reading list for the module, which has been given a blanket advisory on how the tragic could be troubling.

The warning, as seen by The Telegraph, states: “Tragedy is a genre obsessed with violence and suffering, often of a sexual or graphic kind, and so some of the content might be triggering for some students.

“If you feel that your engagement with particular texts or themes is going to present challenges, do speak to me in advance of the class.”

Literary classics given warnings

1. Beowulf - University of Aberdeen

The Anglo-Saxon tale of foul monsters and a fire-breathing dragon being slain was given a warning for "animal cruelty" and "ableism".

Expand to read more

University staff said the warning was deemed necessary because “any of the plays explicitly engage with themes of violence and trauma, frequently sexual in nature”.

The plays in the module span 2,500 years of literature, beginning with the works of Aeschylus, whose Oresteia tells of numerous mythological murders, and Sophocles, whose drama Oedipus Rex tells the story of a king who sleeps with his mother and kills his father.

‘The real tragedy is the use of trigger warnings’

Professor Frank Furedi, an education expert at the University of Kent, criticised the broad trigger warning and said that tragedy is meant to cause upset.

“In order to draw a reader or an audience into the drama, tragedy is meant to provoke emotional upheaval and cause upset,” he said.

“If they fail to provoke strong emotions then a tragedy is anything but tragic. There is no such thing as a safe tragedy and students who wish to study this literary form have to live with it.

“A trigger warning is merely a banal way of saying beware of engaging with this wonderful art form. The real tragedy is the use of trigger warnings for grown-up students who are about to encounter their first taste of Euripides.”

The University of Derby said that the trigger warning is given “because many of the plays explicitly engage with themes of violence and trauma, frequently sexual in nature, and the module leader believes that students benefit from being made aware of this before classes begin”.

Censorship, government: jan28 trigger warnings at uninversities: When universities say even a trigger warning is triggering, it’s hard not to pity the students. "The compilers of the Stanford list, however, have decided that the term “trigger warning” is itself triggering – because it “can cause stress about what’s to follow”."

COMMENT

When universities say even a trigger warning is triggering, it’s hard not to pity the students

Thanks to their baffling banned terms, Stanford is no longer a leading American college – not least because they say ‘American’ is offensive

MICHAEL DEACON
COLUMNIST & ASSISTANT EDITOR

21 December 2022 • 6:07pm

I must admit, I'm feeling rather guilty. In countless previous columns, I've suggested that students nowadays are comically sanctimonious.

But perhaps it isn't actually the students' fault. They're just following the example set by even more sanctimonious university staff.

I've been contemplating this possibility ever since I read a story about Stanford, a leading American university. Some of its staff, it seems, have been working on what they call an "Elimination of Harmful Language Initiative". This consists of an extremely long list of words and phrases which they believe students should never use, because they're far too offensive.

Almost all of it, however, is utterly bewildering. So much so, it makes me feel sorry for the students. The most baffling thing I had to read at university was Finnegans Wake. But it had nothing on this.

In the context of scientific research, for example, students are instructed to avoid the term "blind study", because it "perpetuates [the idea] that disability is somehow abnormal". Instead, students should use the term "masked study". Until, presumably, the staff decide that "masked study" is hurtful to sadomasochists, by perpetuating the idea that they're somehow abnormal, too.

In the context of computing, meanwhile, students are ordered not to use the word "user". Apparently, it makes website users sound like drug addicts. Then again, students aren't supposed to use the word "addicts", either, because it stigmatises drug users. Sorry: I mean, "people with a substance use disorder".

Another offensive term, you may be intrigued to learn, is "prisoner". To avoid causing offence, the list recommends the phrase "person who is incarcerated". This is because, in the view of the compilers, it's hurtful to "define people by just one of their characteristics". Why, of course. We must never forget that murderers have feelings too.

As, indeed, do animals. According to the list, we should avoid using the old saying "There's more than one way to skin a cat", because it "normalises violence against animals". What evidence the compilers have for this claim, I'm not sure. Perhaps a study has confirmed that, after being told that there's more than one way to skin a cat, people are more likely to go out and try it. If so, I would call it a copycat

crime, but no doubt that would be offensive, as well. After all, this baseless association with plagiarism must be deeply hurtful to cats. No wonder they always seem so grumpy.

Believe it or not, another entry on the list is the word “American”. This is deemed offensive because it “often refers to people from the United States only, thereby insinuating that the US is the most important country in the Americas”. Clearly I shouldn’t have described Stanford as a leading American university. Or, for that matter, as a leading university.

Still, if you found that entry hard to fathom, wait till you hear the next one. In recent years, many universities have added trigger warnings to classic works of literature in order to warn students that they contain racist or homophobic language. The compilers of the Stanford list, however, have decided that the term “trigger warning” is itself triggering – because it “can cause stress about what’s to follow”. How university librarians are meant to resolve this conundrum, I don’t know. Perhaps they should add trigger warnings to the trigger warnings. But then the trigger warnings to the trigger warnings would need trigger warnings, too.

At any rate, there are countless other bizarre entries that I sadly haven’t got room to include. You may think it all sounds crazy. But if you do, please don’t say so, because the word “crazy” is on the banned list, too. It’s described as “ableist language” that “trivialises the experiences of people living with mental health conditions”.

As an alternative, the compilers suggest we use the word “surprising”. In this particular context, however, I really don’t think that will do. Because a university going woke is the least surprising thing in the world.

Censorship, media, government: jan28 (2018?) University of Manchester Bans Clapping and Cheering As Marginalizing For Some Students, Must Use Hand Signs Instead...

The student union of the University of Manchester voted to ban clapping, whooping and cheering because some students might find these common forms of expression to be unwelcoming or alienating for some students. As a result, students are expected to use “Jazz hands” to show approval to maintain a welcoming environment.

The students are expected to use the British Sign Language (BSL) equivalent of a clap – a wave of both hands. The change was proposed Student Union access officer Sara Khan.

nice exerpt on chinese censorship history. "It started in 1997: In 1997, a sweeping wave of regulations aimed at restricting internet usage was enacted. Section Five of the Computer Information Network and Internet Security, Protection, and Management Regulations was the first time pornography was specifically targeted and banned in China's criminal law. It defined obscene material as any "books, periodicals, movies, video-and audio-tapes, pictures, etc. that explicitly portray sexual behavior or undisguisedly publicize pornographic materials", but made exception for those used for medical or artistic purposes.[13] [14] The State Administration of Radio, Film and Television's prohibition on pornography has been complete, and the government has shown no signs of reversing its decision. Directors, producers, and actors involved in pornographic films have been barred from competing in any

film competitions. Any film studio found in violation may have its license revoked."

Government censorship[edit]

See also: Censorship in China

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Ideas[edit]

Chinese government consistently holds the idea that pornography information is harmful, arguing that "disseminating pornographic information online severely harms the physical and mental health of minors, and seriously corrupts social ethos",[16][17] pornography information is close to "spiritual pollution".[18] *Xinhuanet* states that "Chinese cultural traditions and moral values do not allow obscene and pornographic information to spread unchecked on the Internet".[19]

Methods[edit]

The term *Great Firewall of China* was coined in 1997 by Geremie Barmé to describe the combination of legislative actions and technologies enforced by the People's Republic of China to regulate the Internet domestically. First introduced in 1997, three years after the internet first arrived in China, it included regulations prohibiting the use of the internet to disseminate sexually suggestive material, among other things. The Great Firewall is a subsystem of the Golden Shield Project, also referred to as the "National Public Security Work Informational Project".

In its effort to combat internet pornography and other internet activity which it deemed illegal, the government of China issued the widespread use of internet censors. Algorithms designed by tech companies including Alibaba and Tuputech, these censors were designed to detect, block, and remove all sexual content.[3] The development of artificial intelligence technologies has been essential in the success of the censorship of internet pornography in China.

chinese censorship: "A crackdown of pornographic websites in 2004 lead to the arrests of over 200 people and the shutdown of over 700 pornographic websites including "99

Erotica", after having acquired more than 300,000 registered users within a year of its launch. One of those imprisoned, Wang Yanli, was believed to be the first woman jailed on a pornography related charge. She received a sentence of four years for operating an online strip club."

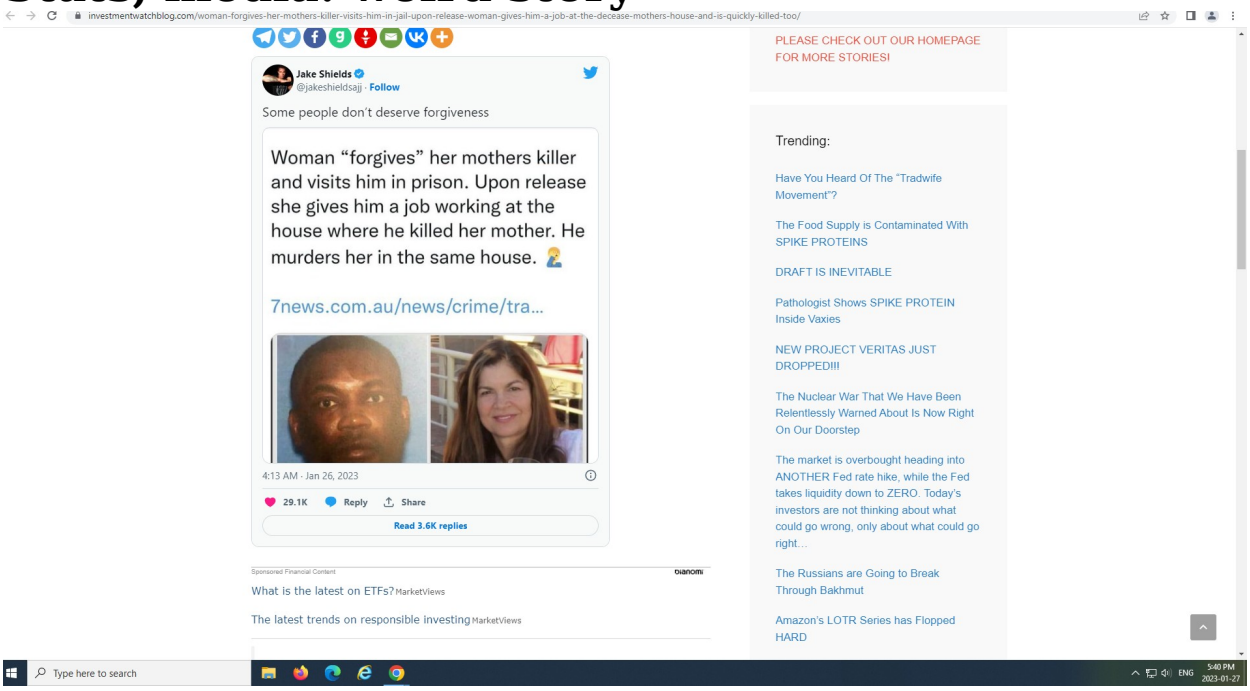
In 2005 authorities sentenced its eleven workers, among them teachers and civil servants, to imprisonment ranging from three to twelve years for disseminating obscene material. In October 2006 authorities closed down "Erotica Juneday", which charged its highest-paying members 3,999 yuan (then around $490) a year, and sentenced founder Chen Hui to life imprisonment.[22] Among those who complained about the harshness of the sentence was the sociologist Li Yinhe. She called on authorities to either repeal the pornography laws in China or stop pretending the nation enjoys freedom of expression.

2009-present[edit]

Between 2009 and 2010, crackdowns on pornography sites resulted in the arrests of thousands of people annually. In 2009, 5,394 people were arrested and 9,000 illegal porn-related sites were shut down.[23] In 2010, Chinese authorities shut down 60,000 pornographic websites and arrested almost 5,000 suspects.[24]

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pornography_in_China

Stats, media: weird story


investmentwatchblog.com/woman-forgives-her-mothers-killer-visits-him-in-jail-upon-release-woman-gives-him-a-job-at-the-decease-mothers-house-and-is-quickly-killed-too/
Jake Shields
@jakeshieldsajj · Follow
Some people don't deserve forgiveness
Woman "forgives" her mothers killer and visits him in prison. Upon release she gives him a job working at the house where he killed her mother. He murders her in the same house.
7news.com.au/news/crime/tra...
4:13 AM · Jan 26, 2023
29.1K
Reply
Share
Read 3.6K replies
PLEASE CHECK OUT OUR HOMEPAGE FOR MORE STORIES!
Trending:
Have You Heard Of The "Tradwife Movement"?
The Food Supply is Contaminated With SPIKE PROTEINS
DRAFT IS INEVITABLE
Pathologist Shows SPIKE PROTEIN Inside Vaxies
NEW PROJECT VERITAS JUST DROPPED!!!
The Nuclear War That We Have Been Relentlessly Warned About Is Now Right On Our Doorstep
The market is overbought heading into ANOTHER Fed rate hike, while the Fed takes liquidity down to ZERO. Today's investors are not thinking about what could go wrong, only about what could go right…
The Russians are Going to Break Through Bakhmut
Amazon's LOTR Series has Flopped HARD
Sponsored Financial Content
What is the latest on ETFs? MarketViews
The latest trends on responsible investing MarketViews
Type here to search
ENG
5:40 PM
2023-01-27

: jan27 Woman "forgives" her mothers killer, visits him in jail. Upon release woman gives him a job at the decease mothers house and is quickly killed too.

After her mother was killed in a home invasion gone wrong, Martha McKay was quick to forgive the person responsible.

Then, 23 years on from her murder, the unthinkable happened to Martha…

Described by its website as 'stately' and 'elegant,' Snowden House, with its marble floor and sweeping staircase, was the perfect setting for a murder mystery.

In fact, the grand building, situated on the water's edge of Horseshoe Lake, served as a location for a movie adaptation of one of John Grisham's crime novels…

www.thatslife.com.au/she-forgave-her-mums-killer-then-he-murdered-her-too

Stats, health, censorship: jan27 500% Increase in Autism in New York-New Jersey Region

Time frame: 2000-2016

What could be the cause? What also happened during that time frame?

SNIP

Documented cases of autism spectrum disorder (ASD) in the New York–New Jersey metro region increased by as much as 500 percent between 2000 and 2016, with the highest increase among children without intellectual disabilities, according to a Rutgers University study.

This is the opposite of past findings, which have suggested that autism typically co-occurs with intellectual impairment.

“One of the assumptions about ASD is that it occurs alongside intellectual disabilities,” said Josephine Shenouda, an adjunct professor at the Rutgers School of Public Health and lead author of the study published today (January 26) in the journal Pediatrics. “This claim was supported by older studies suggesting that up to 75 percent of children with autism also have intellectual disability.”

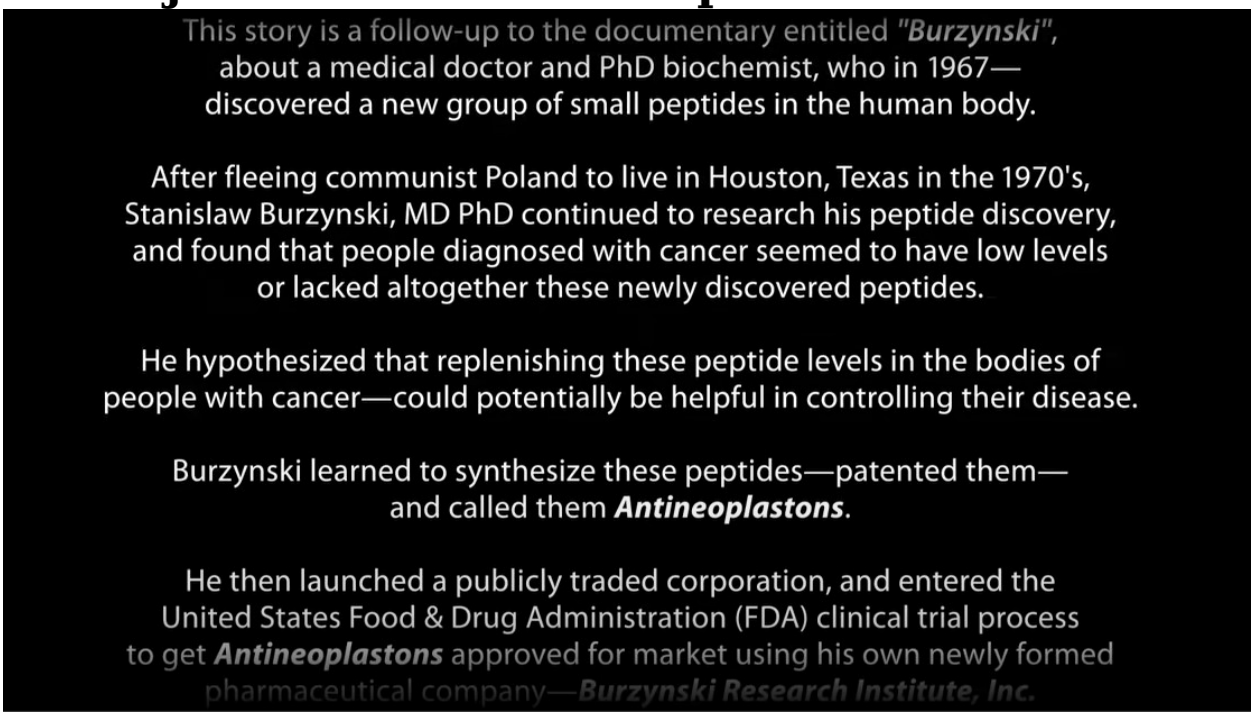
“What our paper shows is that this assumption is not true,” Shenouda said. “In fact, in this study, two-in-three children with autism had no intellectual disability whatsoever.”

Using biannual data from the New Jersey Autism Study, researchers identified 4,661 8-year-olds with ASD in four New Jersey counties (Essex, Hudson, Ocean, and Union) during the study period. Of these, 1,505 (32.3 percent) had an intellectual disability; 2,764 (59.3 percent) did not.

Source:

scitechdaily.com/rutgers-finds-shocking-500-increase-in-autism-in-new-york-new-jersey-region/

Stats: jan27 cancer cover-up


This story is a follow-up to the documentary entitled "Burzynski",
about a medical doctor and PhD biochemist, who in 1967—
discovered a new group of small peptides in the human body.
After fleeing communist Poland to live in Houston, Texas in the 1970's,
Stanislaw Burzynski, MD PhD continued to research his peptide discovery,
and found that people diagnosed with cancer seemed to have low levels
or lacked altogether these newly discovered peptides.
He hypothesized that replenishing these peptide levels in the bodies of
people with cancer—could potentially be helpful in controlling their disease.
Burzynski learned to synthesize these peptides—patented them—
and called them Antineoplastons.
He then launched a publicly traded corporation, and entered the
United States Food & Drug Administration (FDA) clinical trial process
to get Antineoplastons approved for market using his own newly formed
pharmaceutical company—Burzynski Research Institute, Inc.

War, government, iran: jan27 Conservatives cheer EU 'retreat' on blacklisting IRGC: Javan daily, which is affiliated with the IRGC, wrote: "For a while, the Europeans played with the card of adding the IRGC to their terror list, but finally

they faced the real price of doing that and retreated."

Tech, government: jan27 Surveillance concerns as India issues new digital IDs in Kashmir: “Even if the government intends to provide us with benefits by creating these new IDs, their authoritarian treatment towards the people of Jammu and Kashmir has made us doubt their intentions,” he said.

“Families already use their ID cards if they need to access any social welfare programmes. So why is this required?” said Mehak, 22, who asked that her last name be withheld.

Regional authorities have said the JK Family ID, an eight-digit code assigned to each household, would improve access to social welfare benefits such as subsidised food grains.

It means families will not have to apply for benefits under various schemes, as eligibility decisions will be automated based on the data, said Prerna Puri, a commissioner in Indian-administered Kashmir’s information technology department.

Across India, the government is undertaking a vast digitisation push, including health records, property titles, railway bookings and utility payments, as part of the Digital India programme aimed at better governance.

War jan27 UN Food Agency: Afghan Malnutrition Rates at Record High

War, censorship: jan27 Four People With Russian Flags Kicked Out of Australian Open by Police

Four people were kicked out of the Australian Open after displaying Russian flags — which have been banned from Melbourne Park — and threatening security guards, police and Tennis Australia said Thursday.

Markets, government, journal: jan27 lockheed reports massive share repurchases: 11 billion in repurchases and dividend payments. dividends fine; repurchases, not fine...

Lockheed may be a for-profit, publicly traded, company but those stock buybacks, dividends and appreciated stock value are largely underwritten by U.S. taxpayers. The company's 2021 annual report acknowledged that, "…71% of our $67.0 billion in net sales were from the U.S. Government."

War: Jan27IMF Mulling Fresh $16 Billion Ukraine Aid Package; Revealed the same week Zelensky is touting a new 'anti-corruption' drive...

‘

Vaccine, censorship, government: jan27 judge blocks cali covid misinformation law; The

court’s ruling effectively halts the law while the legal challenge plays out.

In Hoeg v. Newsom, **five doctors alleged that the state law, AB 2098, is unconstitutional under the First and Fourteenth Amendments of the U.S. Constitution. A separate related lawsuit, Hoang v. Bonta, makes similar allegations.**

Both lawsuits sought a preliminary injunction to prevent California from enforcing the law.

Health, vaccine, censorship: jan27 Utah Plastic Surgeon Allegedly Destroyed COVID Vaccines, Gave Fake Shots To Children: image of legal complaint by u.s. goverment aleging doctor involved in elaborate conspiracy. Word conspiracy used several times.

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

DISTRICT OF UTAH

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, Plaintiff, vs. PLASTIC SURGERY INSTITUTE OF UTAH, INC.; MICHAEL KIRK MOORE JR.; KARI DEE BURGOYNE; KRISTIN JACKSON ANDERSEN; AND SANDRA FLORES, Defendants. Case: 2:23-cr-00010 Assigned To : Nielson, Howard C., Jr Assign. Date : 1/10/2023	**INDICTMENT** VIOLATIONS: Count 1: 18 U.S.C. § 371, Conspiracy to Defraud the United States Count 2: 18 U.S.C. §§ 371 and 641, Conspiracy to Convert, Sell, Convey, and Dispose of Government Property Count 3: 18 U.S.C. §§ 641 and 2, Conversion, Sale, Conveyance, and Disposal of Government Property and Aiding and Abetting

The Grand Jury Charges:

Introductory Allegations

At all times relevant to this Indictment:

1. Defendants herein and others known and unknown to the Grand Jury ran a scheme out of the Plastic Surgery Institute of Utah, Inc. to defraud the United States and the Centers for

Disease Control and Prevention ("CDC"), whereby they destroyed hundreds of doses of government-provided COVID-19 vaccines, and in exchange for either direct cash payments or required "donations" to a specified charitable organization, defendants distributed COVID-19 vaccination record cards to persons without administering a COVID-19 vaccine to them and administered saline shots to minor children to trick them into thinking they had received a vaccine.

"Flores and other employees would then provide the Fraudulent Vax Card Seekers with the completed COVID-19 Vaccine Record Cards without administering any COVID-19 vaccine to them," the document reads.

The group also gave fake vaccines to children when requested by the minors' parents.

"Dr. Moore, Burgoyne, and Flores also arranged, at times, to administer or have others administer saline shots to minor children at the request of their parents so that the minor children would think they were actually receiving a COVID-19 vaccine," according to the document.

China, markets, sanctions: jan27 Global Smartphone Shipments Plunge Most On Record; zh, as usual, was telling us this for ....a long long

time....."IDC's report was published one week before Apple reveals quarterly earnings."

Fourth-quarter global smartphone shipments plunged 18.3% year over year to 300.3 million units.

Top 5 Companies, Worldwide Smartphone Shipments, Market Share, and Year-Over-Year Growth, Q4 2022 (Preliminary results, shipments in millions of units)

Company	4Q22 Shipment Volumes*	4Q22 Market Share*	4Q21 Shipment Volumes	4Q21 Market Share	Year-Over-Year Change*
1. Apple	72.3	24.1%	85.0	23.1%	-14.9%
2. Samsung	58.2	19.4%	69.0	18.8%	-15.6%
3. Xiaomi	33.2	11.0%	45.0	12.2%	-26.3%
4. OPPO	25.3	8.4%	30.1	8.2%	-15.9%
5. vivo	22.9	7.6%	28.3	7.7%	-18.9%
Others	88.3	29.4%	110.2	30.0%	-19.8%
Total	**300.3**	**100.0%**	**367.6**	**100.0%**	**-18.3%**

Source: IDC Worldwide Quarterly Mobile Phone Tracker, January 25, 2023

The decline was the largest on record for one quarter and contributed to an annual reduction of 11.3%. 1.21 billion smartphones were shipped for the year, the lowest yearly total since 2013.

Top 5 Companies, Worldwide Smartphone Shipments, Market Share, and Year-Over-Year Growth, CY2022 (Preliminary results, shipments in millions of units)

Company	2022 Shipment Volumes*	2022 Market Share*	2021 Shipment Volumes	2021 Market Share	Year-Over-Year Change*
Samsung	260.9	21.6%	272.1	20.0%	-4.1%
Apple	226.4	18.8%	235.8	17.3%	-4.0%
Xiaomi	153.1	12.7%	191.0	14.0%	-19.8%
OPPO	103.3	8.6%	133.6	9.8%	-22.7%
vivo	99.0	8.2%	128.3	9.4%	-22.8%
Others	362.7	30.1%	399.1	29.3%	-9.1%
Total	**1205.5**	**100.0%**	**1359.8**	**100.0%**	**-11.3%**

Source: IDC Worldwide Quarterly Mobile Phone Tracker, January 25, 2023

lobal Smartphone Shipments Forecasted To Drop Amid China Woes And Ukraine War

BY TYLER DURDEN
THURSDAY, JUN 02, 2022 - 12:35 PM

International Data Corporation's (IDC) *Worldwide Quarterly Mobile Phone Tracker* report downgraded global shipments of smartphones for the year from an expected 1.6% growth to a decline of 3.5%.

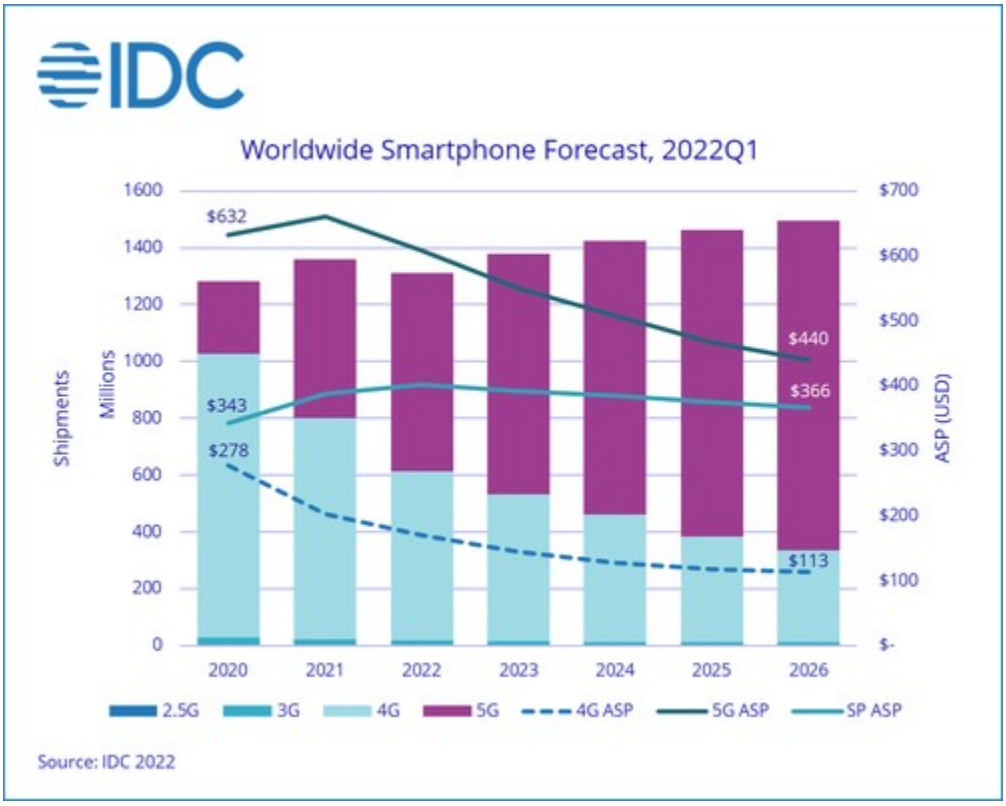
IDC's downshift in growth estimates comes as "the smartphone industry is facing increasing headwinds from many fronts – weakening demand, inflation, continued geopolitical tensions, and ongoing supply chain constraints," IDC research director Nabila Popal said in the report.

The most significant declines are expected in Central and Eastern Europe, with shipments down 22%, and China, the largest smartphone market, is forecasted to decline 11.5% or roughly 38 million units, which accounts for 80% of the global drop in shipment volume this year.

"The lockdowns hit global demand and supply simultaneously by reducing demand in the largest market globally and tightening the bottleneck to an already challenged supply chain," IDC research director Phil Solis said. He added: "The bigger problem has been the tight supply of components such as PMICs, display drivers, and discrete Wi-Fi chips."

Last week, sources familiar with Apple's supply chain told Bloomberg that production would remain flat after two months of China's zero COVID policy and resulting lockdowns disrupted suppliers ahead of series production later this summer for the new iPhone.

The expected 3.5% drop in global smartphone shipments to 1.31 billion units is a noticeable decline versus last year and relatively flat growth since 2020. However, smartphone growth is expected to rebound by 5% in 2023 as 5G products are predicted to gain a larger market share.



China's slumping economy and conflict in Ukraine appear to be cooling worldwide smartphone demand this year.

Samsung Profits Plunge 69% As Global Chip Demand In 'Full-Fledged Ice Age'

BY TYLER DURDEN
FRIDAY, JAN 06, 2023 - 01:21 PM

The world's largest memory chipmaker recorded an operating profit decline of 69% for the three months that ended in December -- the worst drop in nearly a decade -- as the semiconductor supply glut worsens.

Preliminary numbers released by Samsung showed the company's operating profit declined to 4.3 trillion won ($3.4 billion) last quarter, missing the average analyst estimate of 6.7 trillion won ($5.3 billion). Sales fell to 70 trillion won ($55 billion) in the quarter, down 8.6% over the same period a year ago. The company is expected to publish a full financial statement with net income and updates on divisional performance at the end of the month.

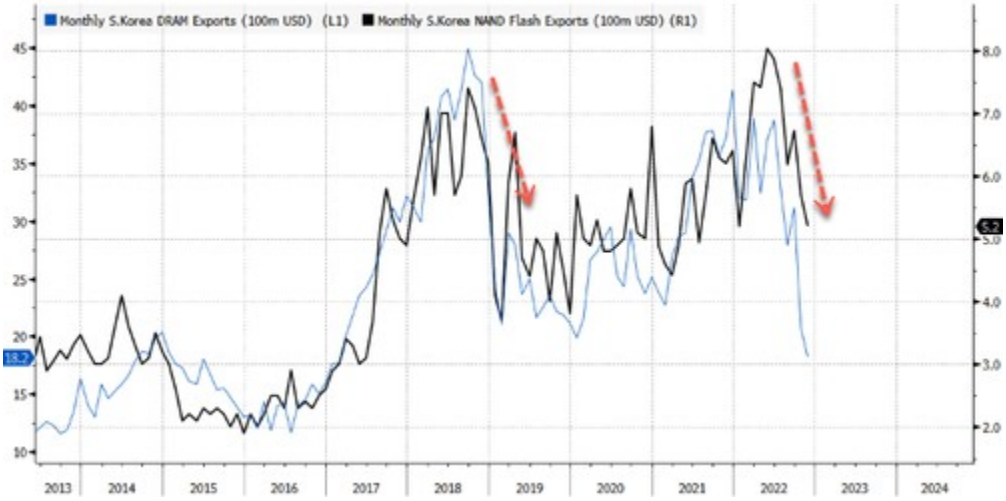
"Amid continued external uncertainties, including a potential global economic downturn, overall earnings decreased sharply quarter on quarter as we saw a significant drop in the memory business results due to lackluster demand and weaker sales of smartphones," the company said in a statement.

Readers have been well informed about South Korea's largest company grappling with dismal memory chip demand. We cited the Korea Economic Daily in September that warned about Samsung's troubles and how the "semiconductor industry has entered a full-fledged ice age."

"The decline in 4Q demand was greater than expected as customers adjusted inventories in their effort to further tighten finances," Samsung said in its statement, adding significant price declines in memory chips and slumping smartphone sales were due to "weak demand resulting from prolonged macro issues."

And those macroeconomic headwinds Samsung might be talking about could be the global economy sliding into recession. Earlier this week, International Monetary Fund Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva warned about global recession risks on CBS's 'Face the Nation.'

South Korea's exports of memory chips are in a down-cycle, indicating a worsening slump in tech demand critical to global economic growth.



Despite the bad news, though mostly known, shares of Samsung Electronics trading on Korean exchanges rose 1.4% Friday -- holding above the 100-day moving average.

Here's what Wall Street analysts had to say about Samsung (list courtesy of Bloomberg):

CLSA Securities Korea (Sanjeev Rana)

- "Shares are rising because really bad numbers from Samsung raise the likelihood of the company taking some action to control memory supply in the form of capex or production cut"
- "Samsung has been adamant that it has no plans to cut capex or supply but a fast deterioration in the demand and its deteriorating profitability means that the management might be forced to consider the unthinkable, i.e. memory production cuts"
- Other memory chip suppliers from Micron to Kioxia and SK Hynix have already announced reduction in either capex or output; if Samsung joins, it will become clear that the industry supply growth will tighten, leading to a better demand supply balance later this year

Midas International Asset Management (Shin Jin-Ho)

- In the past when earnings were bad, the shares began to rebound after Samsung's comments on output adjustment
- So investors are buying on the earnings shock, as expectations for output cut increase after earnings miss
- Bullish on Samsung stock price in the short term

Bloomberg Intelligence (Masahiro Wakasugi)

- Samsung's 1Q profit could stay low after its 4Q preliminary results came in 35% below consensus
- The NAND chip division may have posted a loss in 4Q due to severe price erosion while DRAM generated profit
- Earnings recovery might be slow in 2023 on declining chip prices despite demand recovery in 2Q or 3Q

Stats, energy, government: jan27 The Renewable Rejection Database shows that 79 local governments in the United States either restricted or banned solar power projects in 2022, up from 19 in 2021 and just two in 2020. https://robertbryce.com/renewable-rejection-database/

Markets, sanctions, energy, war, spr: jan27 Freeport LNG Terminal Approved For Partial Restart: "federal regulators approved Freeport LNG's request for a partial restart of operations at the liquefied natural gas export terminal on the Texas coast. "

Freeport LNG Terminal Approved For Partial Restart

BY TYLER DURDEN
THURSDAY, JAN 26, 2023 - 06:10 PM

US natural gas futures erased some losses but still hovered sub $3 per million British thermal units after federal regulators approved Freeport LNG's request for a partial restart of operations at the liquefied natural gas export terminal on the Texas coast.

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) approved Freeport LNG's request to restart operations. Freeport was granted approval to begin the "cool down" of its Loop 1 transfer piping and restart the terminal's boil-off gas management compressors and other piping.

Here's what Houston-based energy firm Criterion Research told clients

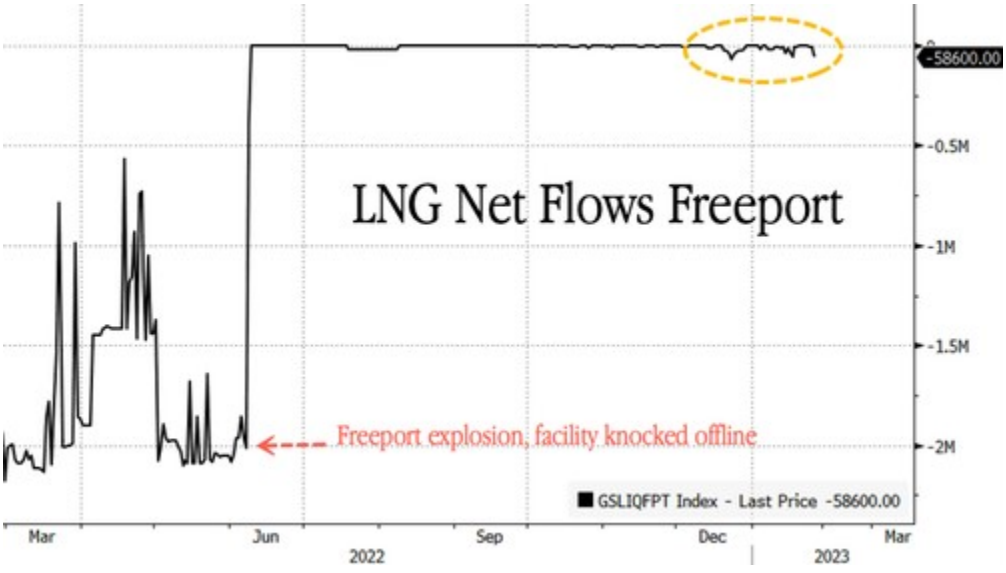
The FERC has formally granted Freeport LNG approval to "commence commissioning, including cooldown, of Loop 1 LNG transfer piping and commissioning and reinstate service of the boil off gas (BOG) management system." The letter was dated January 26, 2023 and the approval was based on an inspection conducted by the FERC and PHMSA onsite on January 25, 2023.

Moving forward, Freeport will need to request and receive approval for any further activity. This includes securing permission to "reinstate service for Loop 1 LNG circulation to enable ship loading to Dock 1 and to cooldown, recommission, and reinstate service of the liquefaction trains, including rundown piping to tanks."

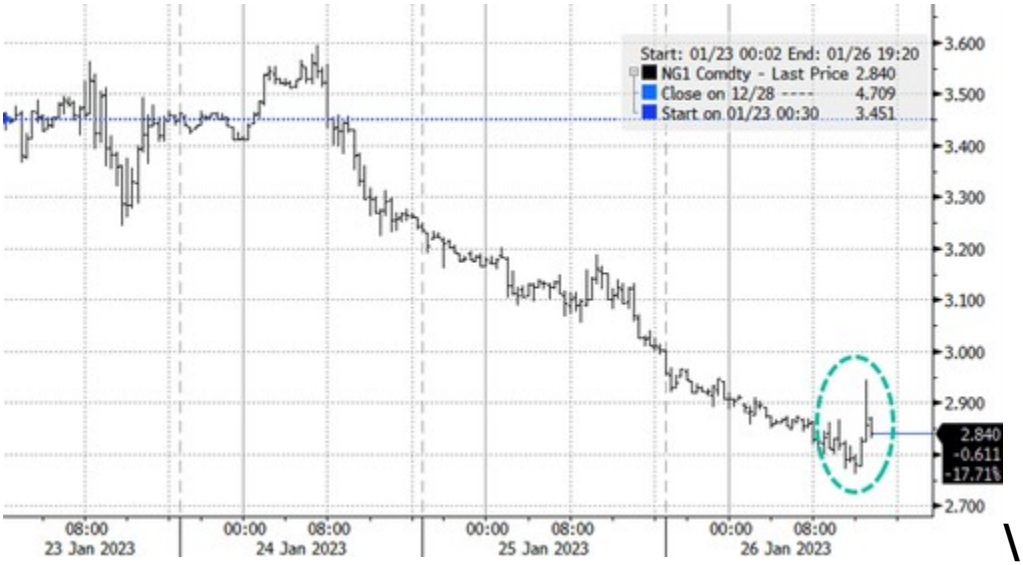
Based on Freeport's initial request this week, the Loop 1 and BOG work will now take 11 days, placing the completion of that process on Monday, February 6, 2023.

Recall earlier this week. Freeport released a statement that it "has completed repairs to the Export Facility on Quintana Island, Texas, performed safety reviews, revised various procedures, implemented new safety systems and performed necessary training in order to safely begin to resume initial operations at its Export Facility."

Freeport's LNG net flows show some signs of life after being halted last June when an explosion rocked the facility and brought it offline.



Even after the news, US NatGas futures are still deep in the red and sub $3 -- mainly because of increased production, ample supply, and a mild winter.



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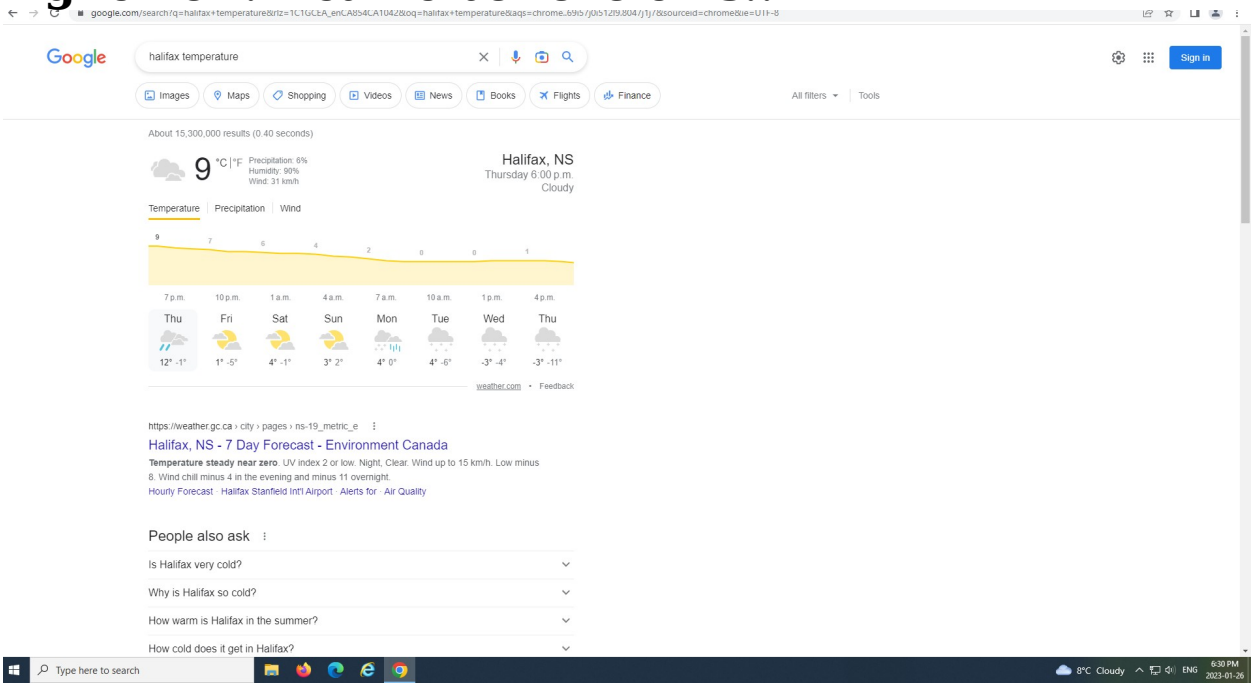
The question remains if NatGas prices will finally find a floor if Freeport begins a partial restart -- considering the facility is one of the biggest export terminals in the US.

Journal, planet, war: jan26 like it's 9 degrees right now. I can't believe this..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Shopping
Videos
News
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About 15,300,000 results (0.40 seconds)
9 °C | °F
Precipitation: 6%
Humidity: 90%
Wind: 31 km/h
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Thursday 6:00 p.m.
Cloudy
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Precipitation
Wind
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Feedback
https://weather.gc.ca › city › pages › ns-19_metric_e
Halifax, NS - 7 Day Forecast - Environment Canada
Temperature steady near zero. UV index 2 or low. Night, Clear. Wind up to 15 km/h. Low minus 8. Wind chill minus 4 in the evening and minus 11 overnight.
Hourly Forecast · Halifax Stanfield Int'l Airport · Alerts for · Air Quality
People also ask
Is Halifax very cold?
Why is Halifax so cold?
How warm is Halifax in the summer?
How cold does it get in Halifax?
Type here to search
8°C Cloudy
ENG
6:30 PM
2023-01-26

Markets: Bed Bath & Beyond Craters After Confirming It Received Default Notice From JPMorgan jan26

Journal, stats, markets, government, censorship: "I'll be gone, you'll be gone": data base of 6,300 major corporate fines and settlements from the early 1990s to 2015

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1t0Tb5H7V_OkOuLM9kaiPmszXb3L5wS2g7Tc5dG7v9yM/edit#gid=0

In his new book *The Accidental Investment Banker*, Jonathan Knee introduces us to the phrase IBG YBG, which means “I’ll be gone. You’ll be gone.” This might be whispered between investment bankers when an inconvenient fact comes to light during due diligence on a company they are about to float. “Don’t sweat it” is the implication. Investors may be burned. The investment bank itself may be burned, but by then, the

bankers themselves will have cashed their bonuses and be long gone.

glynholtondotcom/blog/risk-management/ill-be-gone-youll-be-gone/

Source:
https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1t0Tb5H7V_OkOuLM9kaiPmszXb3L5wS2g7Tc5dG7v9yM/edit#gid=0

War: **Ukraine Pivots To F-16 Fighter Jets Hours After Securing Tanks, zh breaks the escalation down perfectly**

A mere hours after both Washington and Berlin confirmed they will be providing Western-made heavy battle tanks for Ukraine, reversing course on prior policy after intense inter-NATO debate, Ukraine said it is now pushing hard for 4th generation fighter jets.

That's according to an adviser to Ukrainian defense minister Oleksiy Reznikov, who just told *Reuters* that Kiev will step up efforts to lobby for newer western aircraft to replace its small, aging Soviet fleet. **"The next big hurdle will now be the fighter jets,"** the defense ministry official, Yuriy Sak, said.

"Every type of weapon we request, we needed yesterday," Sak added, expressing Ukrainian impatience as the Russians report fresh gains in the east and south, also after Ukrainian forces confirmed withdrawing completely from Soledar. "We will do everything possible to ensure Ukraine gets fourth-generation fighter jets as soon as possible."

F-16 file image, Lockheed Martin

American F-16s have long been as the top of President Zelensky's defense "shopping list" - especially following his first appearance before Congress. In a March 16 virtual address to US lawmakers he urged Washington to send jets along with anti-air defenses to help **"close the sky"**.

But his public calls for 'closing the sky' grew a bit quieter in the months that followed that initial March speech given it proved unpopular with the American public - because in essence this was an appeal for the US to impose a 'no fly zone' - and of course this would be a *de facto* act of war.

But with advanced tanks now in the bag, *The Hill* admits that "Western fighter jets and longer-range artillery units, which would allow Ukraine to strike Russian forces deeper in occupied territory, will likely be the next debate for NATO."

Of course, those few public voices arguing *against* these iterative steps of pledging heavier and heavier weaponry have pointed out precisely that it only ensures a ladder of escalation leading to direct clash with Russia in a WW3 scenario, which some say we are already in the midst of.

The Ukrainian side is of course fully aware that its strategy to keep pressing the West for bigger and more advanced weapons at all costs is working. The aforementioned defense ministry adviser explained to Reuters further:

"They didn't want to give us heavy artillery, then they did. They didn't want to give us HIMARS systems, then they did. ***They didn't want to give us tanks, now they're giving us tanks****," Sak said.*

"If we get them, the advantages on the battlefield will be just immense," he added. "It's not just F-16s: fourth generation aircraft, this is what we want."

And then this amazing, brazen admission: **"Apart from nuclear weapons, there is nothing left that we will not get,"** Sak added.

As for the Pentagon reaction to all this, spokesman John Kirby cited "constant discussions" with Ukrainian officials on what they need. "Can’t blame the Ukrainians for wanting more and more systems," Kirby said. "**It’s not the first time they’ve talked about fighter jets**, but I don’t have any announcements to make on that front."

Similar to when the tank issue was first introduced, likely it'll take a mere few months or less for the West's supposedly firm "no" to become "maybe..." to a supposedly reluctant, "OK, yes". **It's only a matter of time**, and yet few top officials are acknowledging the increasing speed at which they are running straight up the escalation ladder with Russia. As Glenn Greenwald aptly observed this week, **"The *more escalation* there is, the *less debate*."**

Tech: Congressman reads speech on House floor written by Chat GPT

Markets: The long-awaited winter energy crisis has finally hit...but it wasn’t in Europe after all. On Monday, almost the entirety of Pakistan was left without power when a misguided energy saving strategy by the government backfired. Runaway inflation, a severely weakened currency, and rapidly emptying foreign exchange reserves have left Pakistan on the brink of economic collapse. The country of 230 million people is plagued by overdue energy payments, and was seeking to cut costs by lowering energy use when the plan went off the rails, leaving people across the country without power or water for more than 12 hours.

A significant energy shortage is one of the main drivers of the nation’s current economic crisis. Pakistan’s high level of dependence on imports of foreign fossil fuels to keep the lights on has left the country “acutely vulnerable to to hikes in global oil and gas prices.” This has led to devastating consequences for the cash-strapped country as the energy war between Europe and Russia has caused widespread market volatility and driven energy costs up to painful levels.

According to the Asian Development Bank, Pakistan imports "nearly a third of its energy resources in the form of oil, coal, and liquefied natural gas (LNG)." Pakistan's own Dawn Newspaper slammed the government this week for its 'self-inflicted' economic crisis based on "unsustainable energy policies — price and availability — coupled with constant currency volatility," which it says "have kept the country's export potential capped."
Indeed, experts say that the nation has barely enough left in its coffers for one more month of crucial energy and fuel imports. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) is currently discussing how to mitigate the crisis unfolding in Pakistan, starting with softening some conditions for a proposed $6 billion bailout, which the government fears will only fuel inflation. It would come on the heels of another $1.1 billion in IMF aid given to Islamabad in August. "Since then," Associated Press reports, "discussions between the two parties have oscillated due to Pakistan's reluctance to impose new tax measures."

Stats, russia: **russian dissident site: Project Gulagu.Net**

History: **Pluto enters aquarius, Pluto's last turn in Aquarius was 1778–1798**

Pluto in Aquarius is just a few months away, and with it comes a major shift in the world's power dynamics. On March 23, 2023, Pluto leaves Capricorn and enters Aquarius, marking the beginning of the end of one of the most grueling planetary cycles of the last decade (via Café Astrology). The last time Pluto passed through Aquarius was between 1778 and 1798, a revolutionary and transformative period of time that changed the way the world viewed power, money, technology, and society as a whole, according to Shape. With the end of Pluto in Capricorn and the dawning of the Age of Aquarius just on the horizon, astrologers agree that this transit will be just as revolutionary, if not more, than the last time these energies graced the night sky.

Read More: https://www.glam.com/1059217/know-about-plutos-first-station-in-aquarius-in-centuries/

Markets: 57 Percent Of Americans Cannot Afford A $1,000 Emergency Expense

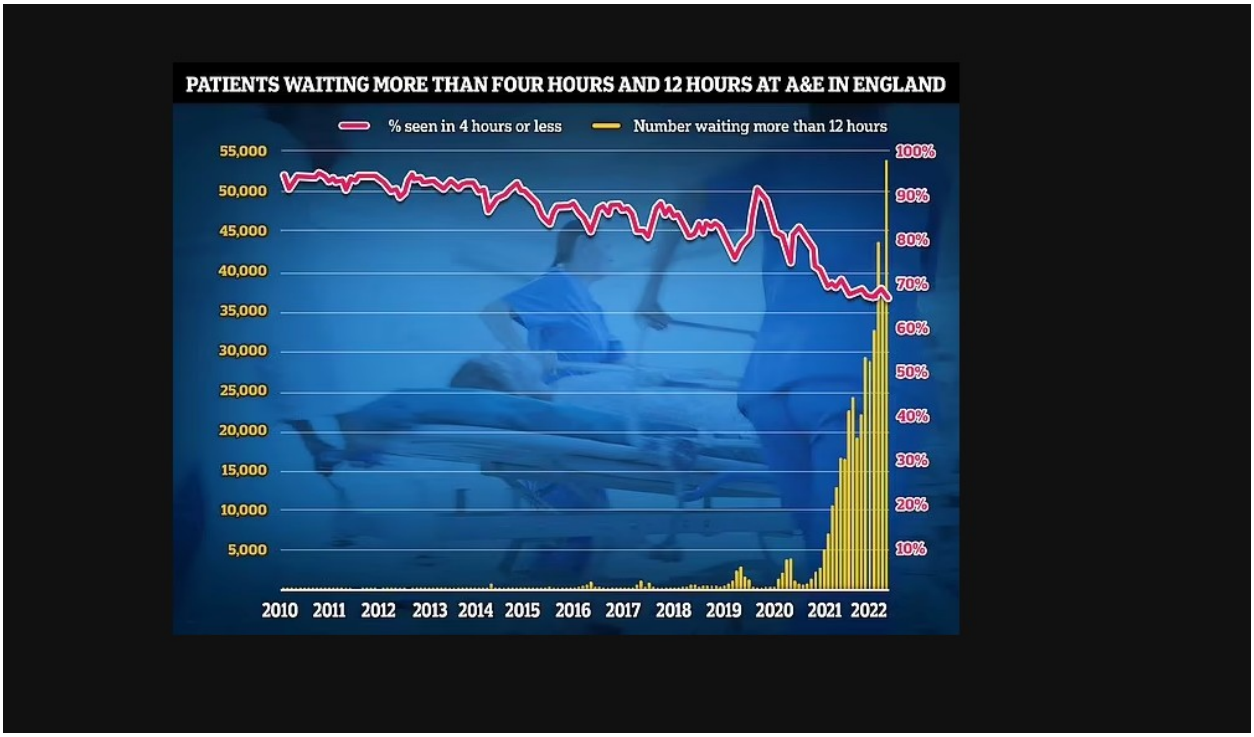
vaccine, government, stats: Massive spike in excess deaths sparks calls for an ‘urgent investigation’: NHS crisis is blamed for nearly 3,000 more Brits than usual dying each week

MPs have called for an urgent investigation into Britain's soaring death rates as thousands more people than usual are dying each week.

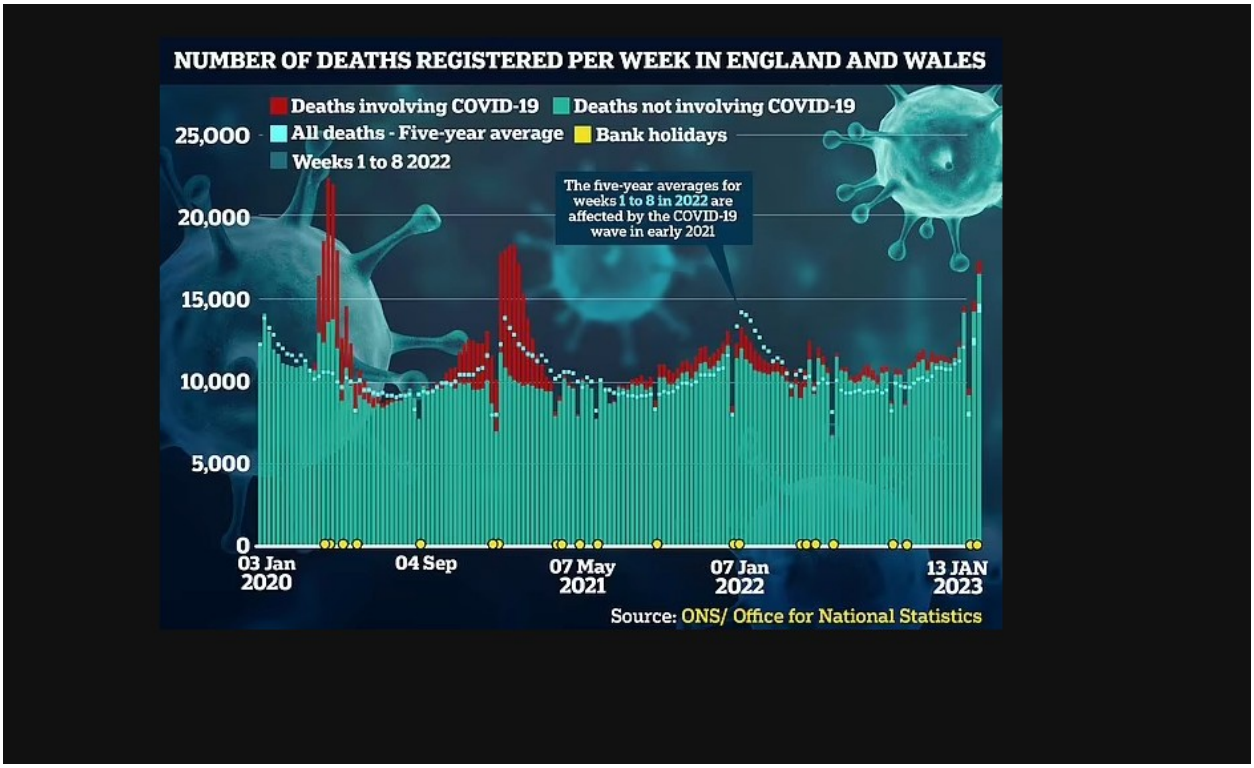
Some 17,381 deaths were registered in England and Wales in the seven days to January 13 – 2,837 above average for the time of year.

This is the highest number of excess deaths since 3,429 in the week to February 12, 2021, when the UK was experiencing its second wave of Covid-19 infections and vaccination had only just begun.

On that occasion, deaths involving coronavirus accounted for 37 per cent of all those registered, according to the Office for National Statistics.

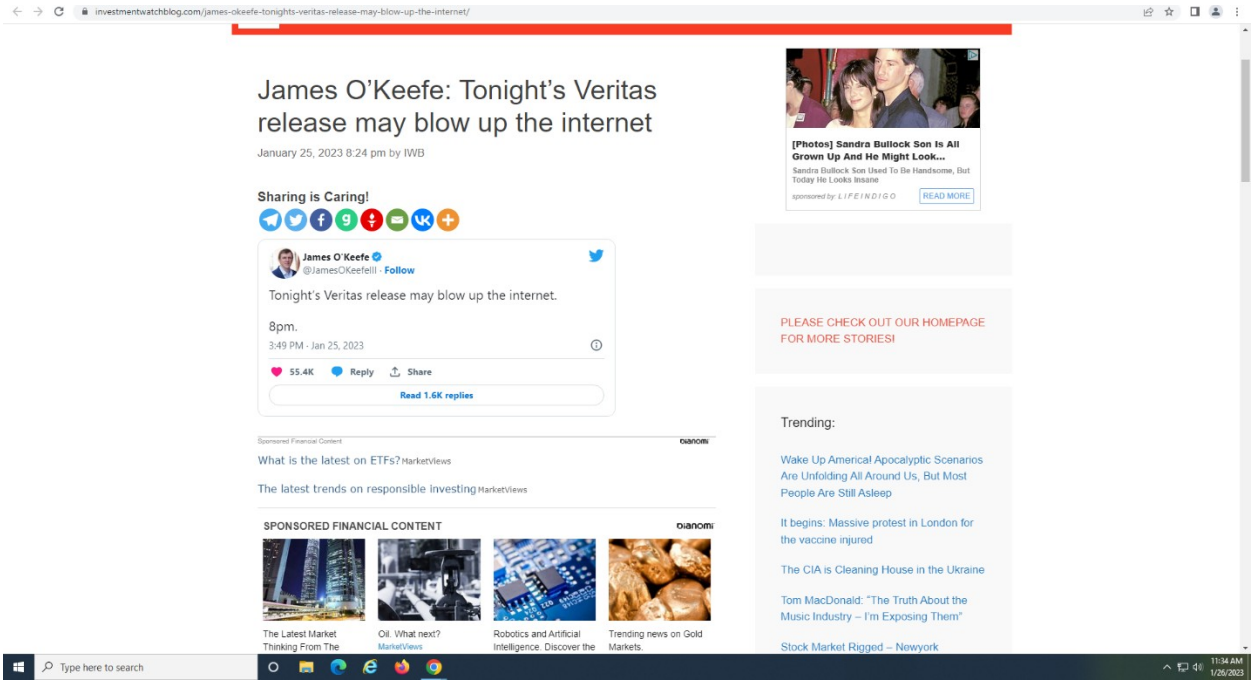


NHS A&E data for December shows that a record 54,532 people seeking emergency care were forced to wait at least 12 hours (yellow bar). Meanwhile, just 65 per cent of A&E attendees were seen within four hours (red line) — the NHS target



But in the most recent week, Covid-19 accounted for just 5 per cent of the total – meaning other factors are likely to be driving the high level of mortality.

Stats, journal: **more feeding into the hysteria to prime the masses for what's truly coming..**


investmentwatchblog.com/james-okeefe-tonights-veritas-release-may-blow-up-the-internet/
James O'Keefe: Tonight's Veritas release may blow up the internet
January 25, 2023 8:24 pm by IWB
Sharing is Caring!
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Tonight's Veritas release may blow up the internet.
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55.4K
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[Photos] Sandra Bullock Son Is All Grown Up And He Might Look...
Sandra Bullock Son Used To Be Handsome, But Today He Looks Insane
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Stock Market Rigged – Newyork
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1/26/2023

Censorship: **Twitter Facing Holocaust Denial and "Hate Speech" Lawsuit in Germany**

The lawsuit was filed in Berlin regional court by HateAid, an organization fighting against "hate speech," and the European Union of Jewish Students (EUJS).

Unlike in America, where we have the First Amendment, Holocaust denial and some forms of "hate speech" are against the law in Germany.

On their website, HateAid argues that Twitter is failing to protect users by allowing antisemitic statements and insults against Jews to be made.
"Twitter promises to protect all its users," HateAid says on their website. "But antisemitism is a normality on the platform. Insults against Jews, trivialisation and denial of the

shoah: antisemitic statements, images and videos can be found all over Twitter. The platform’s lack of moderation leads to an unprecedented spread of antisemitic ideology.”

markets: JAN262023

Chevron Surges After Unveiling $75 Billion Buyback Plan "While War Is Raging"

Censorship: JAN262023 **Facebook Reinstates Trump After Two Years With "New Guardrails In Place"**

Markets: **House Committee Chair Calls For Probe Into '$60 Billion' In Fake COVID-19 Unemployment Claims**

Markets: **The total market value of illicit human trafficking is estimated to be in excess of $32 billion**

America holds the title of "second highest destination in the world for trafficked women" (Wiehl, 2010). Between 14,500 and 17,500 victims are trafficked into the USA each year. In most cases the average age of the prostitute or exploited victim is between 12 and 13 years old. A study from the University of Pennsylvania estimated that nearly 300,000 youth were at risk of being sexually exploited for commercial uses and many of them who are forced into performing sexual acts by their pimps are as young as 5 and 6 years of age. Sex traffickers tend to recruit children because they are not only more unsuspecting than adults, but there is also a high demand for young victims. Since 2003, according to FBI Director Robert Mueller, only 433 of the child victims have been rescued and only 308 hookers and pimps have been prosecuted for these crimes.

Tech: **Crushed Bug "Additive" Is Now Included In Pizza, Pasta, & Cereals Across The EU**

As of yesterday, a food additive made out of powdered crickets began appearing in foods from pizza, to pasta to cereals across the European Union.

Yes, really.

Defatted house crickets are on the menu for Europeans across the continent, without the vast majority of them knowing it is now in their food.

“This comes thanks to a European Commission ruling passed earlier this month,” reports RT.

“As per the decision, which cited the scientific opinion of the European Food Safety Authority, the additive is safe to use in a whole range of products, including but not limited to cereal bars, biscuits, pizza, pasta-based products, and whey powder.”

But don’t worry, because the crickets first have to be checked to make sure they “discard their bowel content” before being frozen.

Lovely stuff.

Critics suggested that once bugs become widely accepted as a food additive, their consumption will become normalized across the board.

“The Liberal World Order has decided that the little people must eat bugs to prevent the climate from fluctuating, in accordance with ruling class ideology,” writes Dave Blount.

“Yet rather than mindlessly obey The Experts as most did with Covid policy, people have resisted. So our moonbat overlords are furtively sneaking insects into food.”

“This will allow them to reveal in the near future that we have already been eating bugs, so there is no reason to object to them shutting down farms and imposing a new diet.”

The European Union also recently approved the use of Alphitobius diaperinus, otherwise known as the lesser mealworm, for human consumption.

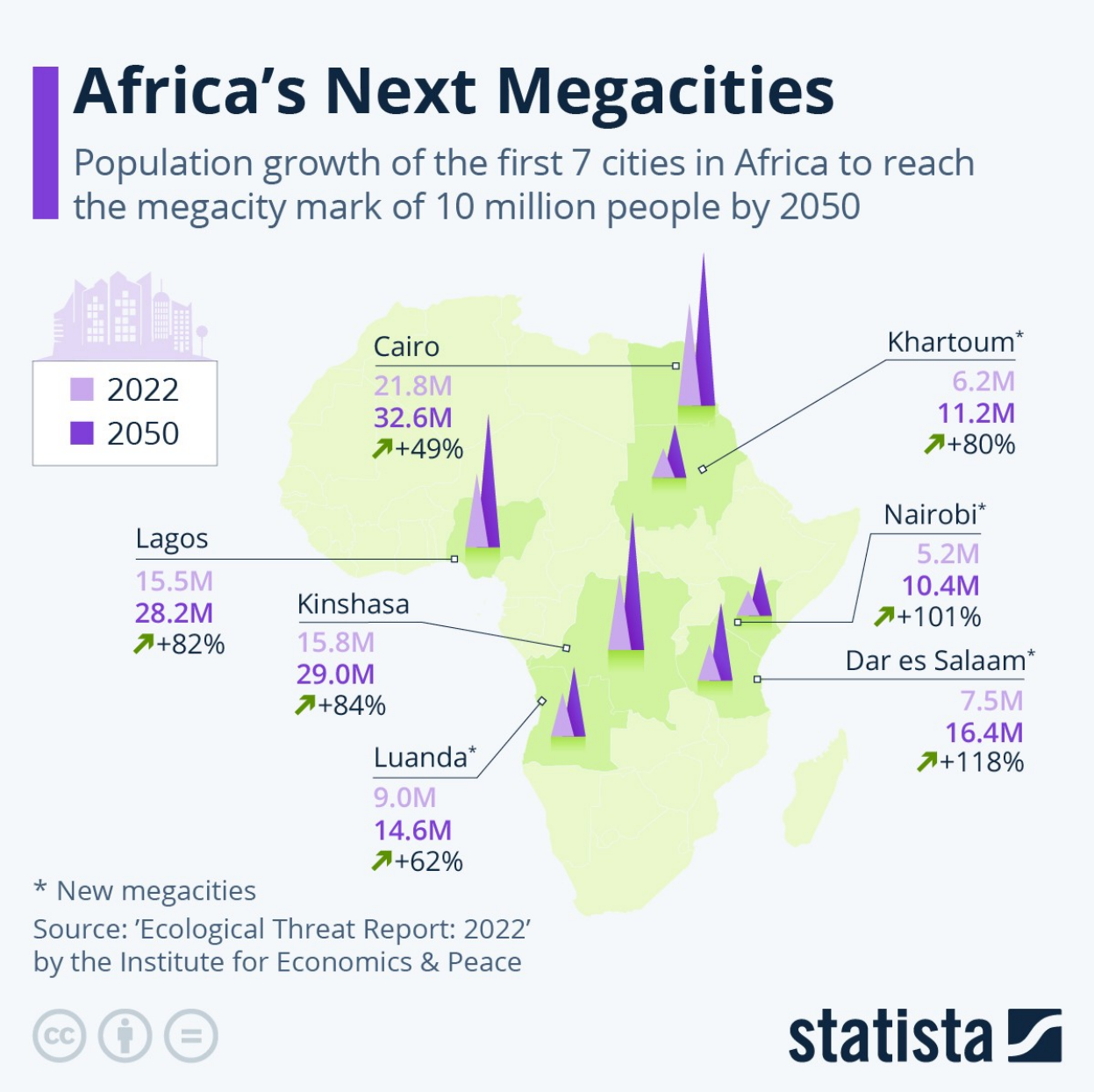
As we have exhaustively documented, globalist technocrats and climate change activists have consistently lobbied for people to start eating bugs to fight global warming, despite the practice being linked to parasitic infections.

I somewhat doubt that elitist technocrats who recently visited Davos will be switching to the bug diet, no matter how much they browbeat us about man-made climate change.

Back in November, the Washington Post advised Americans that instead of a traditional Thanksgiving dinner, which now is unaffordable for a quarter of families, they should instead look to eating bugs.

While livestock farmers in the Netherlands are being climate change regulated out of existence, school children are being indoctrinated to eat bugs, while another German school has banned meat entirely.

Stats, Africa, government: **Africa's Next Megacities**



War: **Germany Still Years Away From Replacing Russian NatGas, Official Admits To "Unspoken Strategy To Pay Crazy Prices"** Jan 26

Some European politicians and economists are breathing a sigh of relief after mild temperatures, increasing liquefied natural gas shipments, and above-average natural gas stockpiles have so far averted a worsening energy crisis this winter. Other politicians believe the energy crunch won't be over for many years.

"Gas storage is up and gas prices are down. Inflation is falling and uncertainty is declining," Deutsche Bank AG wrote in a note this week, adding, "We can afford to be more optimistic."

As of late, Europe's biggest economy, Germany, has seen an improvement in business outlook as recession fears recede, according to data from the Ifo Institute, a Munich-based economic researcher.

Ifo President Clemens Fuest told Bloomberg TV:

"The most important risk for the German economy was a gas-rationing scenario ... and that risk is off the table now."

There's a lot to be happy about in Europe: Dutch front-month NatGas, the continent's benchmark, slid as much as 5% to 55 euros a megawatt-hour today, the lowest level since late 2021. Prices have collapsed by more than 83% since peaking at 311 euros a megawatt-hour last August.

However, the optimism could be short-lived because Germany is years from entirely substituting Russian NatGas flows with LNG shipments.

Last week, Chancellor Olaf Scholz told Bloomberg that German learned a hard lesson in its addiction for cheap Russian NatGas. **He said the country is now rejiggering supply chains that will increase capacity for LNG imports at major ports.**

A new report via the country's Economy Ministry shows Germany will install 56 billion cubic meters of domestic LNG import capacity by 2026. By 2030, capacities will increase to 76.5 billion cubic meters or about 80% of total German NatGas consumption in 2021.

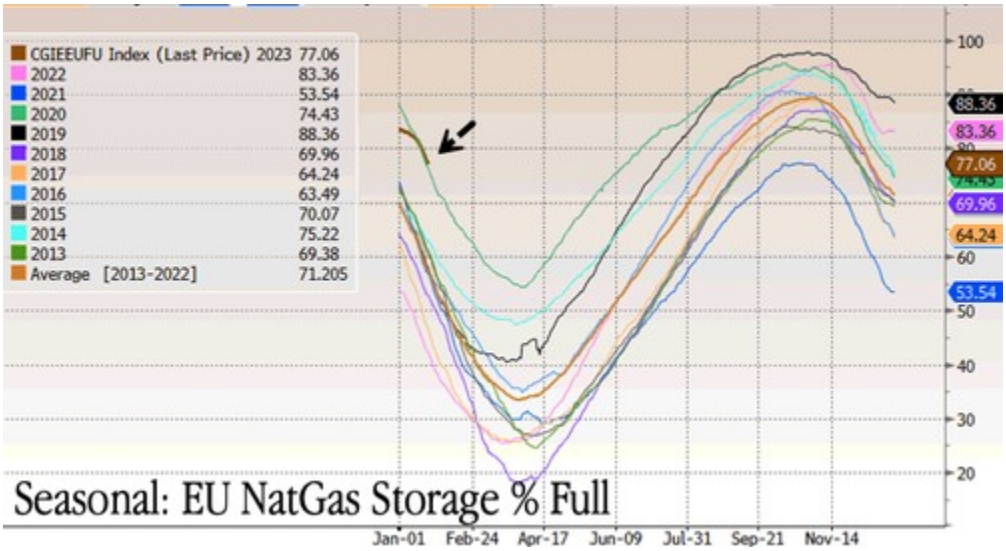
The ministry pointed out that even though current NatGas storage facilities are above normal levels, there are mounting risks later this year that storage could sink to dangerously low levels and result in shortages.

"The truth is, there won't be enough in the next three to four years of LNG production capacity in the world to meet the growing demand. So the unspoken strategy is that Germany will continue to pay crazy prices and other, less rich countries go empty-handed," *Christian Leye, a Bundestag Left Party representative, told Bloomberg.*

Germany has reduced its dependence on Russian NatGas by importing LNG from other EU countries and increasing NatGas pipeline flows from Norway and the Netherlands. Germany didn't have a choice after explosions rocked Nord Stream last year. An issue we see is that Germany's NatGas storage was filled last summer when Russian NatGas was still flowing -- not so much anymore.

Deutsche Bank expects EU NatGas prices to fluctuate between 50 and 100 euros a megawatt-hour this year. It's only a matter of time before the temporary relief evaporates and the energy crisis resurfaces.

Just inserted the images from the article separately, so in this case they are not presented in context, but just at the bottom of the article.



Markets: **Prices have collapsed by more than 83% since peaking at 311 euros a megawatt-hour last August.**

Stats, government, vaccine: executive at Pfizers R&D department caught by project veritas saying covid was man made, could create mutations by feeding the virus to monkeys, jan.26

"One of the things we [Pfizer] are exploring is like, **why don't we just mutate it [COVID] ourselves** so we could create -- **preemptively develop new vaccines**, right? So, we have to do that. If we're gonna do that though, there's a risk of like, as you could imagine -- no one wants to be having a pharma company mutating f**king viruses," said Walker, adding that he believes Pfizer scientists are going about it slowly "because you obviously don't want to advertise that you are figuring out future mutations."

tech: magic leap, a leader in AR, was suspected to have been building a competitor to Google Glass

A November 2014 analysis by Gizmodo, based on job listings, trademark registrations and patent applications from Magic Leap, concluded that the company appeared to be building a competitor to the Google Glass and Oculus Rift that would "blend computer-generated graphics with the real world".[14] It had also been compared to Microsoft HoloLens.[5]

Tech: 200 tech companies w/ layoffs: 59448 as of jan.25th, according to new layoff trackingwebsite, layoffs.fyi

Government, censorship, stats: Las Vegas Judge Commits Suicide After Facing Ethics Probe For Demanding An Investigation Into Alleged Sex Trafficking Ring

A Las Vegas judge and mother of three killed herself a year after leaving her position to avoid a complicated ethics probe that began over what she said was her attempt to save her daughter from prostitution.

Melanie Andress-Tobiasson, 53, who stepped down as a Justice of the Peace before a hearing regarding her ethics investigation, was reportedly found

dead by suicide Friday, 8NewsNow reported. The outlet did not provide details about how she died.

The judge charged that pimps were “targeting the daughters of judges and law enforcement” to recruit them into prostitution.

Andress-Tobiasson was being investigated by Nevada’s Judicial Discipline Commission for almost two years before she agreed to resign in 2021.

Her problems began when her daughter Sarah, then 16, started working at a clothing store that Andress-Tobiasson claimed was a front for criminal activities and tried to stop it, first by reporting the issue to the police, the Daily Mail reported. She said the store, Top Knotch, was involved with prostitution and trying to recruit her daughter.

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She called out Las Vegas cops for ignoring information about the alleged sex trafficking at the store. She claimed that the store was an unlicensed, underage nightclub and added that she was “terrified” of Shane Valentine, who ran the store at the time.

When The Post reached her daughter, Sarah Tobiasson, now 23, on Saturday, she hung up.

Andress-Tobiasson said she had to go to the FBI with the information after being ignored by local police — which resulted in officers investigating her for allegedly breaching judicial rules by making an allegation to federal agents.

A complaint filed against Andress-Tobiasson alleged that she failed to comply with and uphold the law, and allowed family interests and relations to influence her conduct, the Daily Mail reported.

Andress-Tobiasson asked cops to look into Valentine but said they ignored her claims. Valentine was later linked to a shooting where a couple was found dead.

They did not officially link him to the killings of Sydney Land, 21, and Nehemiah “Neo” Kauffman, 20, until months later, according to the Daily Mail.

But Andress-Tobiasson contacted Land’s mother and “began to personally investigate the case” because she thought that Valentine was responsible, the complaint stated.

It added that she used “burner phones” to contact Land’s mother and sent texts to another woman she thought was involved in the murder.

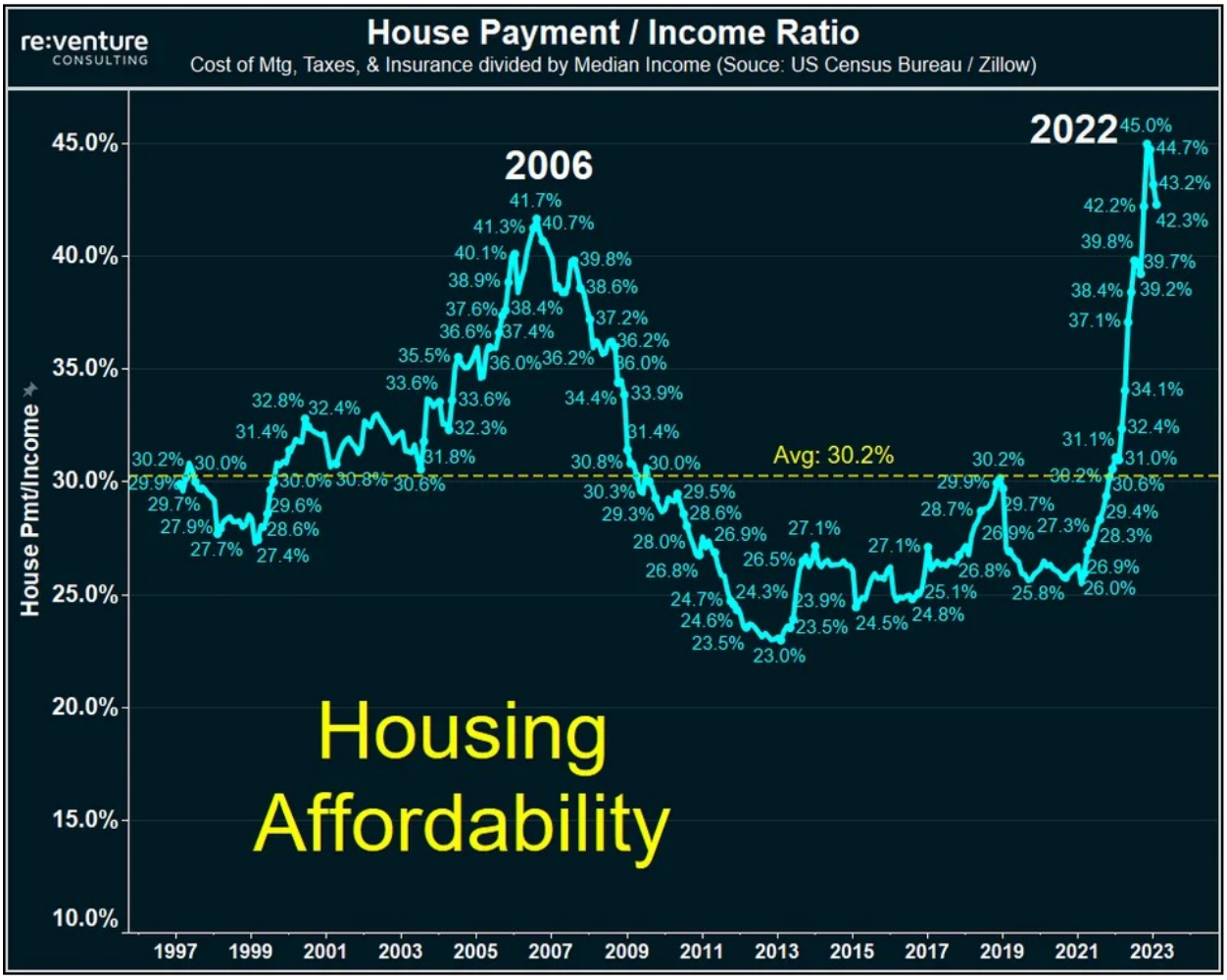
The commission alleged that Andress-Tobiasson stated publicly that she reached out to Valentine’s lawyer at the time and “told him to tell Valentine that if he called her daughter again, she would ‘take care of it herself,'” and that one time she “went to Shane Valentine’s house and kicked in the door.”

Detectives learned of Andress-Tobiasson’s activity, according to the charges, and launched an investigation into the judge, going as far as tracking her phone records.

They also alleged that she had links to a man called “Anthony Danna” who was a “known and documented organized crime figure.”

Andress-Tobiasson lived with her husband, Todd, in a $2 million mansion with a pool at the time of her death.

A look at house payments vs income ratio. Housing market has never been this unaffordable (in history)



Tech, government: **Google announced the largest round of layoffs in the company's 25-year history**

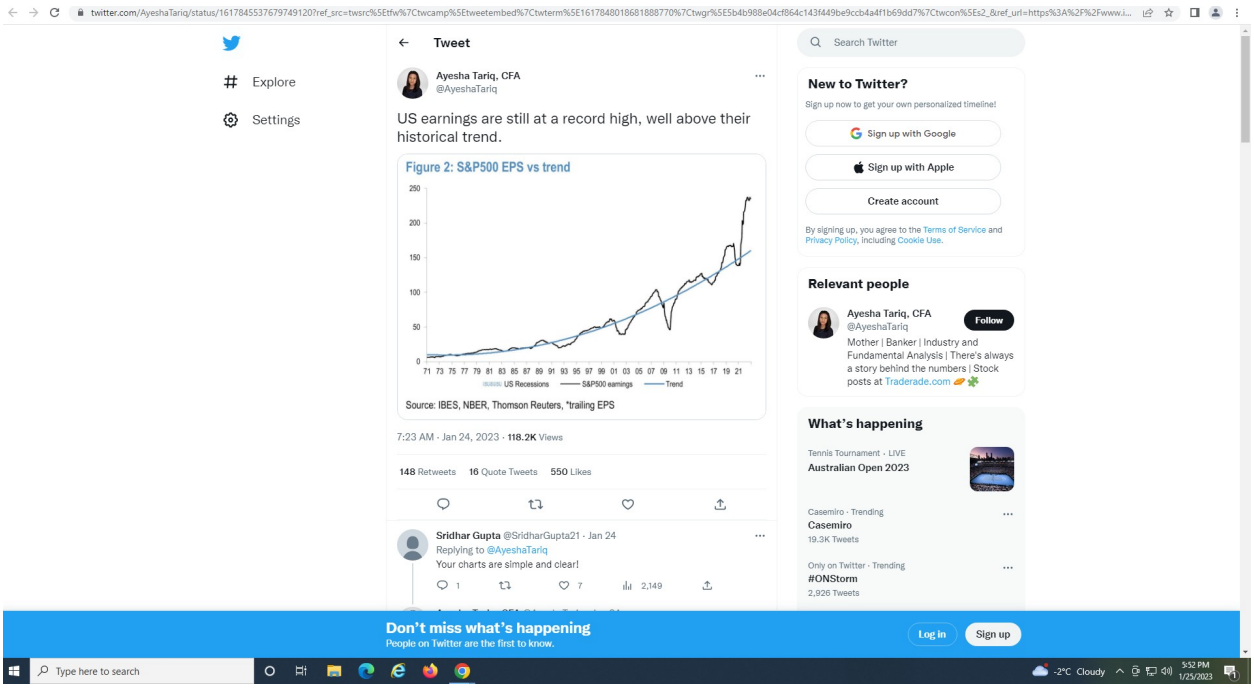
A list of top-rated inquiries from employees, viewed by CNBC, contained pointed questions for executives.

"How were the layoffs decided? Some high performers were let go from our teams," one top-rated question read. "This negatively impacts the remaining Googlers who see someone with high recognition, positive reviews, promo but still getting laid off."

"What metrics were used to determine who was laid off?" another top-rated question read. "Was the decision based on their performance, scope of work, or both, or something else?"

Another asked: “How much runway are we hoping to gain with the layoffs?” and “Would you explain clearly what the layoff allows Google to do that Google could not have done without layoffs?”

Markets: **US earnings are still at a record high, well above their historical trend…**



Tech: **OpenAI, the owner of ChatGPT, is the fastest tech company ever to hit a $30B valuation.**

Health: **mRNA flu shot coming this year. Pfizer CEO: "we've also started experiments to combine the mRNA flu & Covid vax together." Jan.25th**

Stats, censorship, government: **Jamaican Securities firm loses World Champion Olympic Sprinters $12 million in retirement saving. And this wasn't just any sprinter, it was the man himself, Usain Bolt—you know, that guy who holds the record for the 100 meter dash. Yeah him. Even he can't escape the rampant corruption in the tropical island of jamiaca, a country known for having one of the highest murder rates in the world.**

thestreetdotcom/personalities/bank-reportedly-loses-12-million-of-usain-bolts-life-savings

censorship, tech: **Whistleblower: Google Curates Data for AI**

theepochtimesdotcom/google-curates-data-for-ai-whistleblower_4999956.html?utm_source=partner&utm_campaign=TheLibertyDaily

tech: jan.25th, **CHATGPT CAN PASS U.S. MEDICAL LICENSING EXAM AND THE BAR, RECEIVED B GRADE ON WHARTON MBA PAPER**

tech: hacking the brain:**Nita Farahany led a session called "Ready for Brain Transparency?**

Farahany presented a hypothetical scenario in which an employer could spy on employees' thoughts to determine their performance in the workplace, as well as to identify any potential illegal activity in which they might be engaged.

“We can pick up and decode faces that you’re seeing in your mind – single shapes, numbers, your PIN number to your bank account,” Farahany fantasized before her globalist audience – *watch below*:

“Artificial intelligence has enabled advances in decoding brain activity in ways we never before thought possible,” Farahany went on to state during the session. (Related: This is all part of WEF leader Klaus Schwab’s continued efforts to “master the future“.)
“What you think, what you feel: it’s all just data – data that in large patterns can be decoded using artificial intelligence,” Farahany added about the technology she and her tribe are developing.

Such technology is already out there in the form of things like the wearable Fitbit. In fact, Farahany called what is next on the agenda for human brain hacking a “Fitbit for your brain.”

“We’re not talking about implanted devices of the future; I’m talking about wearable devices that are like Fitbits for your brain,” she explained.

“These are headbands, hats that have sensors that can pick up your brainwave activity, ear buds, headphones, tiny tattoos that you can wear behind your ear – we can pick up emotional states – like are you happy or sad or angry.”

Farahany continued to revel during the sessions about “surveillance of the human brain,” which she admitted can be “used to exploit and bring to the surface our most secret self.”

Her statements echo those of fellow globalist Yuval Noah Harari, who has been saying for years at WEF annual

meetings that “we are no longer mysterious souls,” but are rather “hackable animals” ....

“To hack human beings, you need a lot of biological knowledge, a lot of computing power, and especially a lot of data,” Harari stated in the past.

“If you have enough data about me and enough computing power and biological knowledge, you can hack my body, my brain, my life. You can reach a point where you know me better than I know myself.”

tech: **Thanks to AI and the Internet of Bodies (IoB) ecosystem, Five years after historian Yuval Noah Harari told the WEF that humans were hackable and that organisms were algorithms, Harari’s insights have been fully realized.**

The most profound statement in over 150 years of biological research since Charles Darwin can be summarized in just three words, “organisms are algorithms.”

This is the biggest insight to come out of modern life sciences, according to historian Yuval Harari at the World Economic Forum in Davos.

Will the future of humanity be even human, or is our generation one of the last to be called homo sapien?

How to hack a human 101

According to Harari there are two simultaneous revolutions taking place that have led scientists to the brink of hacking humans.

1. Advances in computer science and machine learning
2. Advances in biology and brain science

With the breakthroughs coming forward in these two revolutions occurring on this planet at the same time, we now have the tools at our disposal to hack humans.

So, what does it take to hack a human?

Again, according to Harari, there are only two necessary ingredients to hacking humanity:

1. A lot of computing power
2. Biometric data

With machine learning, this level of computing power has been achieved. Biometric sensors have launched us into age where we can monitor every aspect of biological life to the point that the computers more know about us than we do ourselves.

Data is the most important asset in the world

What do all of these processes have in common? Data. “Data is the most important asset in the world,” said Harari.

In the past the most important assets used to be land and then later machines, but now it is data. But who owns this data? If it is your personal, biological data, do you really own it, or is it the property of corporations, governments, or the elite?

“Those who control the data, control the future of humanity and life itself,” the historian postulated, adding, “If too much of the data becomes concentrated in too few hands, humanity will split, not into classes, it will split into different species.”

Think about that. If humans can be hacked, and they certainly can be, then those who control their data are the hackers.

Machines know us better than we know ourselves

Right now, the big concern over privacy mostly relates to how companies are collecting our data, so they can sell us more junk we don’t need. We all know that our governments are surveilling us constantly, but we just accept it without putting up much of a fight.

“I’ve got nothing to hide, so why should I care?” is the common argument.

Turns out there is plenty to be concerned about. To give an example from Harari, he said that machines know us better than we know ourselves. At age 21, he came out as gay after struggling with his sexuality all his life. But now the technology exists to build machines that can track eye movement, blood pressure, heart rate, and brain activity, so that an actual ‘gaydar’ can be used to find out where people lay on the gay/straight spectrum.

Emotional manipulation

It seems harmless at first, if not awkward, but what if you take the same data and give it to corporations or the ruling class?

They would be able to manipulate your emotions. Instead of a commercial displaying scantily-clad girls in bikinis, the machines would know your sexual orientation and thus show you ads of hunks squirting oil on their popping pecks.

Take this a step further, and hand over this information to governments and they will know everything that makes you tick and how to control you.

Referring back to the gaydar analogy, where will we be when governments can supposedly predict what decisions we make before we make them? Will there be such a thing as free will, or will the computers label us as criminals-in-the-future in some Minority Report-like nightmare?

Towards a digital dictatorship

In a democracy information and decision making is distributed across institutions and individuals. In a dictatorship information and decision making is concentrated among a select few, as there is no real dictatorship in the absolute sense, all dictators have their advisers and counselors, so they are more like oligarchies in disguise.

A digital dictatorship will be one where information and decision making is concentrated to just one entity, the machine. If this happens, where would democracy play in?

“AI and machine learning might swing the pendulum,” says Harari, towards making centralized data processing more efficient. If democracy can’t adapt, we become under the rule of the machines.

This will lead to a surveillance state, more so than it already is. If left unchecked and unregulated with the power of computing and biohacking, the elites will be able to re-engineer the future of life itself.

Bioengineering a new species of human

According to Harari, once you hack something, you can definitely re-engineer it. That is why he believes that within a century or two, “earth will be dominated by entities that are more different than us than we are different from neanderthals or from chimpanzees.”

The transhuman agenda is happening now. It’s being programmed into our subsconsciousness through movies, art, and the media.

“Science is replacing evolution by natural selection with evolution by intelligent design. Not by God, but by our intelligent design and our clouds — these are the new driving forces of evolution,” said Harari.

We are entering an era of inorganic life, and if this technology is not regulated, a tiny elite can shape the lifeforms of the future. Those who have the money and the power to infuse their bodies with AI will become a new species, capable of feats we cannot even imagine at this time.

None of this would be possible without big data and how to process and make sense of it through machine learning.

Who should regulate data ownership?

The elite are not ready to be entrusted with the future of life. “They seem incapable of producing meaningful versions of the future,” Harari said.

So, what’s the solution? Who should regulate ownership of the data? Unfortunately, not even the good historian has an answer, but he left a clue.

Apart from calling upon scientists, philosophers, lawyers, Harari believes there is one group above the rest, more qualified and more conscious about the human condition than all the others — poets.

These music makers and the dreamers of dreams are humanity’s best hope. John F. Kennedy understood this best when he remarked:

When power leads man towards arrogance, poetry reminds him of his limitations. When power narrows the areas of man’s concern, poetry reminds him of the richness and diversity of his existence. When power corrupts, poetry cleanses, for art establishes the basic human truths which must serve as the touchstones of our judgement. The artist, however faithful to his personal vision of reality, becomes the last champion of the individual mind and sensibility against an intrusive society and an officious state.

https://sociable.co/technology/hack-human-algorithms-davos-wef/

If you thought freedom of speech was worth preserving, next comes freedom of thought: perspective

Thanks to AI and the Internet of Bodies (IoB) ecosystem, decoding the human brain is already well underway, according to a World Economic Forum (WEF) presentation.

Five years after historian Yuval Noah Harari told the WEF that humans were hackable and that organisms were algorithms, Harari’s insights have been fully realized.

Thursday's WEF Annual Meeting 2023 session on "**Ready for Brain Transparency**?" opened with a short video showing a dystopian scenario where employees' brainwaves were not only decoded to determine their performance in the workplace, but also to determine whether they participated in illegal activity.

While the scenario in the video below is fictional, the technological framework is already in place.

"We can pick up and decode faces that you're seeing in your mind — simple shapes, numbers, your PIN number to your bank account" — Nita Farahany, World Economic Forum, 2023
"Artificial intelligence has enabled advances in decoding brain activity in ways we never before thought possible" — Nita Farahany, World Economic Forum, 2023

The above video illustrates just one of the many dystopian scenarios that can occur when the human brain is no longer autonomous.

In her presentation at Davos on Thursday, Nita Farahany from Duke University explained that the technology to decode brainwaves already existed and was currently being rolled out in some use cases.

Nita Farahany

“What you think, what you feel — it’s all just data — data that in large patterns can be decoded using artificial intelligence” — Nita Farahany, World Economic Forum, 2023

“Artificial intelligence has enabled advances in decoding brain activity in ways we never before thought possible,” said Farahany.

“What you think, what you feel — it’s all just data — data that in large patterns can be decoded using artificial intelligence,” she added.

And the devices to decode the human brain don’t have to be as invasive as a brain implant.

The devices can be as non-invasive as a “Fitbit for your brain.”

“We’re not talking about implanted devices of the future; I’m talking about wearable devices that are like Fitbits for your brain” — Nita Farahany, World Economic Forum, 2023
“We can pick up emotional states — like are you happy or sad or angry” — Nita Farahany, World Economic Forum, 2023

“We’re not talking about implanted devices of the future; I’m talking about wearable devices that are like Fitbits for your brain,” said Farahany.

“These are headbands, hats that have sensors that can pick up your brainwave activity, ear buds, headphones, tiny tattoos that you can wear behind your ear — we can pick up emotional states — like are you happy or sad or angry.

“We can pick up and decode faces that you’re seeing in your mind — simple shapes, numbers, your PIN number to your bank account.”

“Surveillance of the human brain […] has a dystopian possibility of being used to exploit and bring to the surface our most secret self” — Nita Farahany, World Economic Forum, 2023

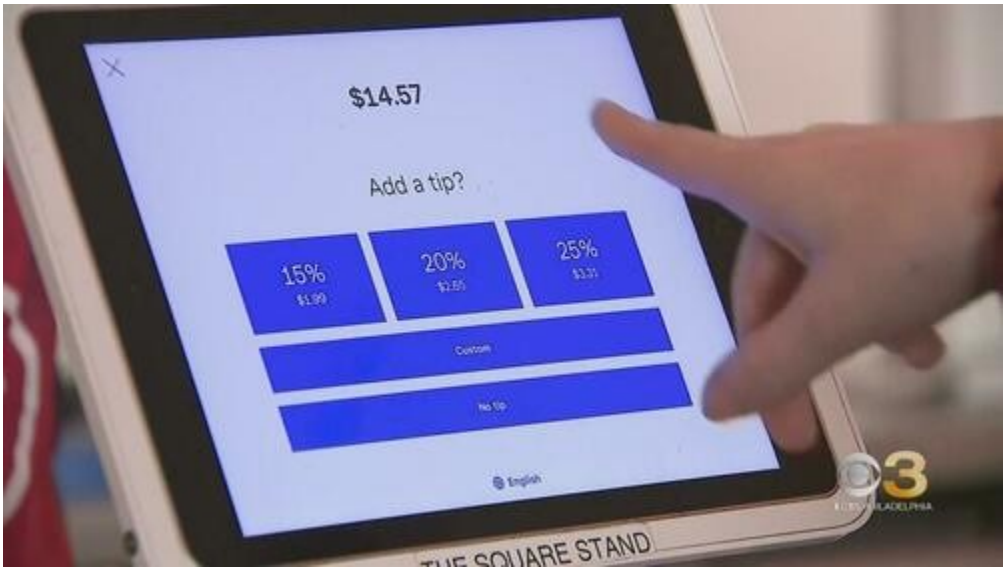
Farahany would go on to say that while decoding the human brain had its benefits, it could also be used for very nefarious purposes.

“***Surveillance of the human brain*** can be powerful, helpful, useful, transform the workplace, and make our lives better,” she said, adding, “***It also has a dystopian possibility of being used to exploit and bring to the surface our most secret self***.

“***It threatens fundamentally what our own self-identity is in some ways, and threatens to become a tool of oppression***.”

https://sociable.co/government-and-policy/hackable-humans-wef-decode-mind-pin-number-bank-account/

markets: **'Tipflation':The culprit behind it is the boom in the use of digital kiosks after the pandemic.**



Media: **Seattle Medical Examiner Running Out Of Space To Store Bodies Due To Fentanyl Overdoses: Official; "More than double the number of lives lost compared to just three years ago..."**

War: **German Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock bluntly states in parliament that, "we are not fightign a war against each other, we are fighting a war against russia" jan.25th**

The Foreign Office was established within the North German Confederation in 1870 and its head, first appointed in 1871, had the rank of Secretary of State. As the German constitution of 1871 installed the Chancellor as the sole responsible government minister and since the Chancellor generally also held the position of Foreign Minister of Prussia, the Secretary of State fulfilled a more subject role as an assistant to the Chancellor, acting largely to draft correspondence rather than to actually direct the formation of foreign policy. This was especially true during the chancellorships of Otto von Bismarck (1871–1890) and Bernhard von Bülow (1900–1909), both of whom had

considerable prior experience with foreign affairs, while secretaries at other times wielded more influence over the foreign policy.

former foreign minister
Gustav Ernst Stresemann (German pronunciation: ['gʊstaf 'ʃtʁe:zəˌman] (listen); 10 May 1878 – 3 October 1929) was a German statesman who served as chancellor in 1923 (for 102 days) and as foreign minister from 1923 to 1929, during the Weimar Republic.

His most notable achievement was the reconciliation between Germany and France, for which he and French Prime Minister Aristide Briand received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1926. During a period of political instability and fragile, short-lived governments, he was the most influential cabinet member in most of the Weimar Republic's existence. During his political career, he represented three successive liberal parties; he was the dominant figure of the German People's Party during the Weimar Republic.

During World War I, he gradually moved to the right, expressing his support of the Hohenzollern monarchy and Germany's expansionist goals. He believed that Germany would need to annex the Low Countries, Eastern Europe, parts of north-east France, and the French protectorate in Morocco in order to economically compete with the United States in the future. He was a vocal proponent of unrestricted submarine warfare.[11]

The collapse of the German Empire after its defeat in World War I and the German Revolution of 1918–1919 drove Stresemann into a mental and physical breakdown, which shocked him into totally abandoning his earlier militarism and annexationism.[11] When the Allied powers' peace terms became known, including a crushing burden of paying reparations for the war, Constantin Fehrenbach denounced them and claimed "the will to break the chains of slavery would be implanted" into a generation of Germans. Stresemann said of this speech: "He was inspired in that hour by God to say what was felt by the German people. His words, spoken under Fichte's portrait, the final words of which merged into **Deutschland, Deutschland über alles**, made it an unforgettably solemn hour. There was in that sense a kind of uplifting grandeur. The impression left on all was tremendous".[13]

The DVP was initially seen, along with the German National People's Party, as part of the "national opposition" to the Weimar Republic, particularly for its grudging acceptance of democracy and its ambivalent attitude towards the Freikorps and the Kapp Putsch in 1920. Beginning in 1919, Stresemann emphasized that Germany should try to regain its great-power status by leveraging the continued global economic influence and creditworthiness of its multinational corporations, pursuing peaceful economic expansion, and establishing friendly relations with the United States.[11] By late 1920, Stresemann gradually moved to cooperation with the parties of the left and centre — possibly in reaction to political murders like that of Walther Rathenau. However, he remained a monarchist at heart.

Weimar Republic[edit]

Chancellor 1923[edit]

On 13 August 1923, Stresemann was appointed chancellor and foreign minister of a grand coalition government in the so-called *year of crises* (1923). In social policy, a new system of binding arbitration was introduced in October 1923 in which an outside arbitrator had the final say in industrial disputes.[14]

On the 26 September 1923, Stresemann announced the end to the passive resistance against the Occupation of the Ruhr by the French and Belgians, in tandem with an Article 48 (of the Weimar Constitution) state of emergency proclamation by President Friedrich Ebert that lasted until February 1924.[15][16] In October 1923, the Stresemann government used Article 48 to replace the illegally-elected SPD-Communist coalition government of Saxony on 29 October, and that of Thuringia on 6 November, by commissioners. By this time, Stresemann was convinced that accepting the republic and reaching an understanding with the Allies on the reparations issue was the only way for Germany to gain the breathing room it needed to rebuild its battered economy.[16] He also wished to recover the Allied-occupied Rhineland, as he wrote to Wilhelm, the former German Crown Prince on 23 July 1923: "The most important objective of German politics is the liberation of German territory from French and Belgian occupation. First, we must remove the strangler from our throat".[17]

Hyperinflation in the Weimar Republic reached its peak in November 1923.[18] Since Germany was no longer able to pay the striking workers, more and more money was printed, which finally led to hyperinflation. Stresemann introduced a new currency, the Rentenmark, to end hyperinflation. He also persuaded the French to pull back from the Ruhr in return for a promise that reparations payments would resume. That was part of his larger strategy of "fulfillment." Although he, like nearly every other German politician, cursed the Treaty of Versailles as a *Diktat*, he had come to believe that Germany would never win relief from its terms unless it made a good-faith effort to fulfill them. To his mind, this would convince the Allies that the reparations bill was truly beyond Germany's capacity. The effort paid off; the Allies began to take a look at reforming the reparations scheme.[19]

In early November 1923, partly because of the reaction to the overthrowing of the SPD/KPD governments in Saxony and Thuringia, the Social Democrats withdrew from his reshuffled government and, after a motion of confidence, he was voted down on 23 November 1923, after which Stresemann and his cabinet resigned.

Foreign minister 1923–1929[edit]

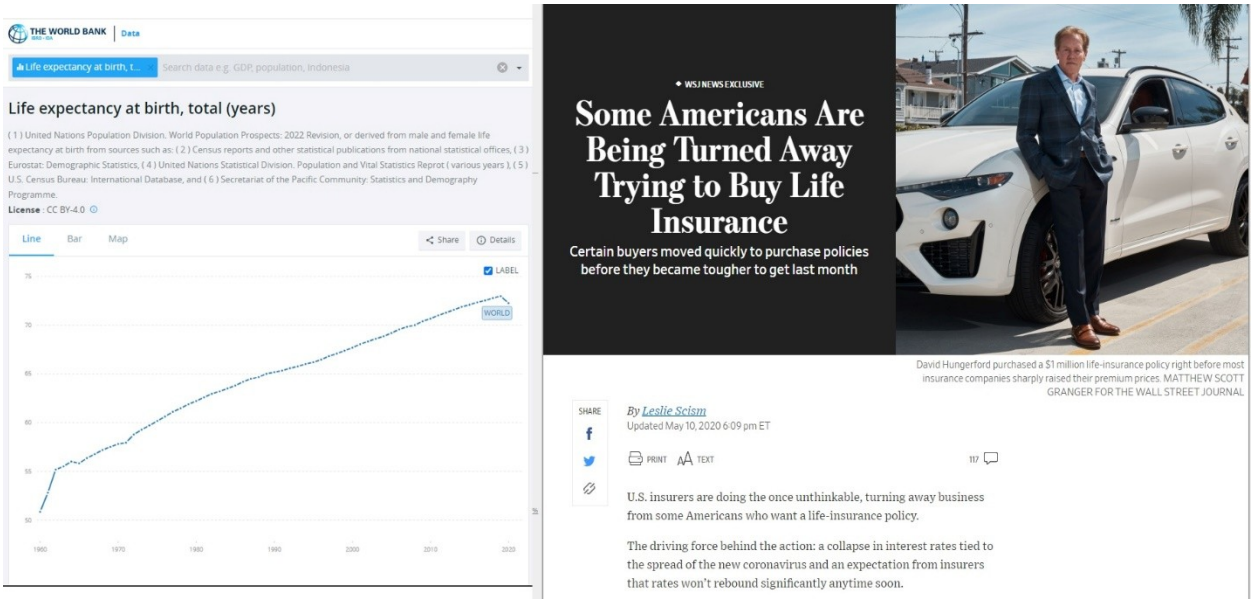
Stresemann remained as foreign minister in the government of his successor, Wilhelm Marx from the Centre Party. He remained foreign minister for the rest of his life in eight successive governments ranging from the centre-right to the centre-left. As foreign minister, Stresemann had numerous achievements. His first notable achievement was the Dawes Plan of 1924, which reduced Germany's overall reparations commitment and reorganized the Reichsbank. He appointed Hjalmar Schacht as the new President of the Reichsbank, who implemented the Dawes Plan and ended Weimar hyperinflation despite his reservations over Germany's growing foreign debt under Stresemann's economic policies.[11] The successful negotiation of the Dawes Plan provided hope for Streseman's foreign policy strategy emphasizing Germany's remaining economic soft power, since the creator of the plan Owen D. Young was the chairman of General Electric and a major trading partner with the German firm AEG.[11]

After Sir Austen Chamberlain became British Foreign Secretary, Stresemann wanted a British guarantee to France and Belgium, as the Anglo-American guarantee had fallen due to the United States' refusal to ratify the Treaty of Versailles. Stresemann later wrote: "Chamberlain had never been our friend. His first act was to attempt to restore

the old Entente through a three-power alliance of England, France and Belgium, directed against Germany. German diplomacy faced a catastrophic situation".[20]

Stresemann conceived the idea that Germany would guarantee her western borders and pledge never to invade Belgium and France again, along with a guarantee from Britain that they would come to Germany's aid if attacked by France. Germany was in no position at the time to attack, as Stresemann wrote to the Crown Prince: "The renunciation of a military conflict with France has only a theoretical significance, in so far as there is no possibility of a war with France".[21] Stresemann negotiated the Locarno Treaties with Britain, France, Italy, and Belgium. On the third day of negotiations, Stresemann explained Germany's demands to the French Foreign Secretary, Aristide Briand. As Stresemann recorded, Briand "almost fell off his sofa, when he heard my explanations". Stresemann said that Germany alone should not make sacrifices for peace; European countries should cede colonies to Germany; the disarmament control commission should leave Germany; the Anglo-French occupation of the Rhineland should be ended; and Britain and France should disarm as Germany had done.[22] The Treaties were signed in October 1925 at Locarno. Germany officially recognized the post-World War I western border for the first time,[23] was guaranteed peace with France, and was promised admission to the League of Nations and evacuation of the last Allied occupation troops from the Rhineland.

..... https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gustav_Stresemann


THE WORLD BANK | Data
Life expectancy at birth, total (years)
Line
Bar
Map
WSJ NEWS EXCLUSIVE
Some Americans Are Being Turned Away Trying to Buy Life Insurance
Certain buyers moved quickly to purchase policies before they became tougher to get last month
David Hungerford purchased a $1 million life-insurance policy right before most insurance companies sharply raised their premium prices. MATTHEW SCOTT GRANGER FOR THE WALL STREET JOURNAL
By Leslie Scism
Updated May 10, 2020 6:09 pm ET
U.S. insurers are doing the once unthinkable, turning away business from some Americans who want a life-insurance policy.
The driving force behind the action: a collapse in interest rates tied to the spread of the new coronavirus and an expectation from insurers that rates won't rebound significantly anytime soon.

For now, a wave of stopgap measures is hitting potential buyers even as some companies say more consumers are seeking out life insurance during the coronavirus pandemic. In addition to suspending sales of some popular products and raising prices, insurers are also scaling back policy sizes and reducing benefits.

“In 33 years, I have never seen more changes come more quickly to the life-insurance products we sell,” said Lawrence Rybka, chairman of ValMark Financial Group, an insurance brokerage in Akron, Ohio. “It is unprecedented how fast and widespread—it is across lots of carriers.”

His staff has had a hard time keeping up with insurers’ bulletins, and they have less time to redirect business to insurers still willing to issue certain types of large policies, he said. Historically, insurers would give a month or 60 days before a change became effective. Now, two weeks is common.

Some insurers are reacting directly to the new coronavirus.

Penn Mutual Life Insurance Co., among others, has temporarily halted life-insurance sales to people 70 and older and who are in poor health. Insurance-industry executives say that analysis shows older people with underlying medical problems are dying at much higher rates from Covid-19 than younger people.

In a memo to brokers, Penn Mutual said it expects “to revisit these and other changes as we gain better insight into the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic.”

Among those prompted to move quickly amid the changes was David Hungerford, 72 years old, who bought a $1 million policy from Prudential Financial Inc. PRU -1.17%▲ last month.

Mr. Hungerford, an owner of a package-design company in southern California, said his broker advised him to act fast because of looming premium hikes. Calling life-insurance buyers “collateral damage” of ultralow interest rates, he said he hustled to wrap up a medical exam. “I was concerned about my overall bucket of assets in the stock market, and I wanted another bucket to depend on” for his wife’s financial protection, he said about his desire to purchase the policy.

Prudential, the nation's biggest life insurer by assets, told brokers in a March missive that its late-April rate increases of 8% to 12% on the type of policy bought by Mr. Hungerford, and other actions, "put us in a much better position to withstand the low interest-rate environment."

The insurer also temporarily suspended sales of 30-year "term-life" policies, an offering popular with young families, a spokeswoman confirmed. Such policies provide a basic death benefit during the years in which they rear their children. Prudential also reduced the amount of interest it is crediting to certain combination savings-and-death-benefit "universal life" policies.

Typically, life insurers hold about 70% of their general investment account in long-term bonds. In general, the yields on these holdings, many of them corporate securities, follow the 10-year U.S. Treasury. Its annual yield has been mostly declining since the 1980s, when it peaked at nearly 16%.

The yield dove after the 2008-09 financial crisis and was as low as 1.366% in 2016 before rebounding to about 3% in 2018. In March, it plummeted again as coronavirus sparked a rush to safer assets and investors feared interest-rate cuts from the Federal Reserve.

The yield on Friday: 0.679%.

Corporate-bond yields have held up better than the 10-year of late, but the overall trend has been tough on life insurers. Life insurers' net portfolio yield averaged 4.4% last year, down from 9.9% in the mid-1980s, according to ratings firm A.M. Best Co.

'It is difficult for consumers to have a lot of empathy for the life-insurance companies, but I can imagine they're really getting squeezed' by low rates, says Mr. Hungerford.

PHOTO: MATTHEW SCOTT GRANGER FOR THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

Some insurers now are turning away business they consider the riskiest. American International Group Inc., Nationwide Mutual Insurance Co., Pacific Life Insurance Co. and Principal Financial Group Inc. are among big insurers that have limited the size of so-called guaranteed universal-life policies, which are highly sensitive to low interest rates.

The guarantee is a promise that the annual premium bill won't ever increase during the owner's lifetime. That means the insurer is on the hook

for any shortage of interest income over the years. Consumers bear the risk of premium hikes in other types of universal life to make up for such shortfalls.

A Nationwide spokesman said the insurer's pricing and product adjustments were motivated by "the extremely low interest rates and market volatility that drives up the cost of our hedging instruments, and [the] evolving landscape related to Covid-19."

Mark Chandik, president of FDP Wealth Management in Irvine, Calif., said many carriers held off raising prices and retooling offerings immediately after 2008-09 on a belief that rates would soon edge up. They gradually made changes when low rates persisted for years.

In this crisis, "they see no end in sight and they are all rushing to react to that," he said.

Over the past decade, life insurers offset some earnings pressure by deploying money into higher-yielding, triple-B debt, but potential downgrades in the worsened economy may make some insurers pause, said Tracy Dolin-Benguigui, a senior director for North American Insurance Ratings at S&P Global Ratings.

Certain insurance products that pay interest to consumers will experience a meaningful decline in sales, she forecasts. "It becomes extremely hard to provide a decent multiyear guarantee when you are facing the prospect of zero or even negative rates," she said.

In another example of how low interest rates are being passed on to consumers, payouts on "income annuities," also known as "immediate annuities," have dropped 24% since 2005, industry figures show. A 70-year-old man investing $100,000 into one of these contracts for lifetime payments would get $556 a month today, down from $730 a month in 2005.

Some industry executives are hopeful one positive outcome of the Covid-19 turmoil is a greater appreciation for life insurance.

"The superlow interest rates today are certainly not good for Americans looking to save nor broadly for the life-insurance industry, but the value of protection products with guarantees will increase in this unpredictable environment," said Theodore Mathas, chairman-elect of trade group American Council of Life Insurers and chief executive of New York Life Insurance Co.

Some insurers say they already are enjoying sales boosts. The 164-year-old Northwestern Mutual Life Insurance Co. said April was one of its five best months ever as measured by number of new clients buying

various types of insurance, up 33% from the year-earlier period. Haven Life, an online unit of Massachusetts Mutual Life Insurance Co., reported a 42% jump in term-life sales in March.

Sales at some companies with product changes have been lifted by buyers trying to get ahead of the deadlines.

Alan Boudreau, a 51-year-old owner of an infrastructure pipe-laying business in southern California, said he was “a little leery” about committing in March to a multimillion-dollar Prudential policy, with Covid-19’s economic damage unfolding.

“I was dragging my feet,” he said. But with changes ahead, “we decided it was smart to move forward now rather than to wait for down the road.”

Write to Leslie Scism at leslie.scism@wsj.com

Corrections & Amplifications
Theodore Mathas is chairman-elect of the American Council of Life Insurers. An earlier version of this article incorrectly named the trade group as the American Council of Life Insurance. (Corrected on May 10)

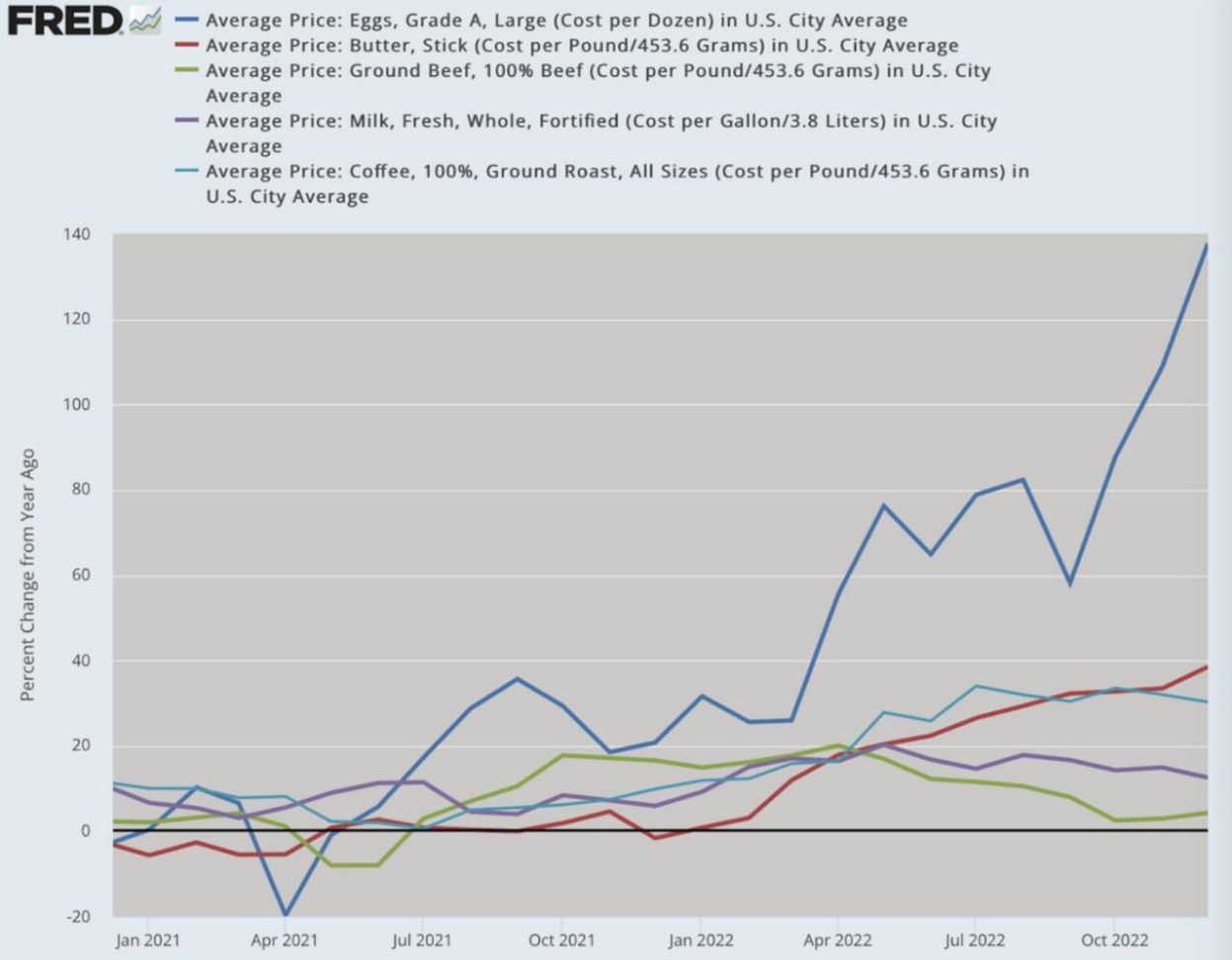
Markets: **The reality you see on the shelves of your local store. The grocery prices tell the truth that you are being pillaged.**

At first, there was just a shortage because grocery chains resisted price increases. Once they came back to the shelves, the cost dramatically rose. You are going to pay more for the worst eggs than the best egg cost only one year ago. Unless you know someone with chickens or have them yourself, you are stuck with thin shells and light-yellow yokes forever, while paying through the nose for them.

The bottom line is undeniable: ***in a mere two years, many of the things you loved, healthy food for your families—I’m not talking about the all-carb diet they want us to adopt—has now doubled in price.***

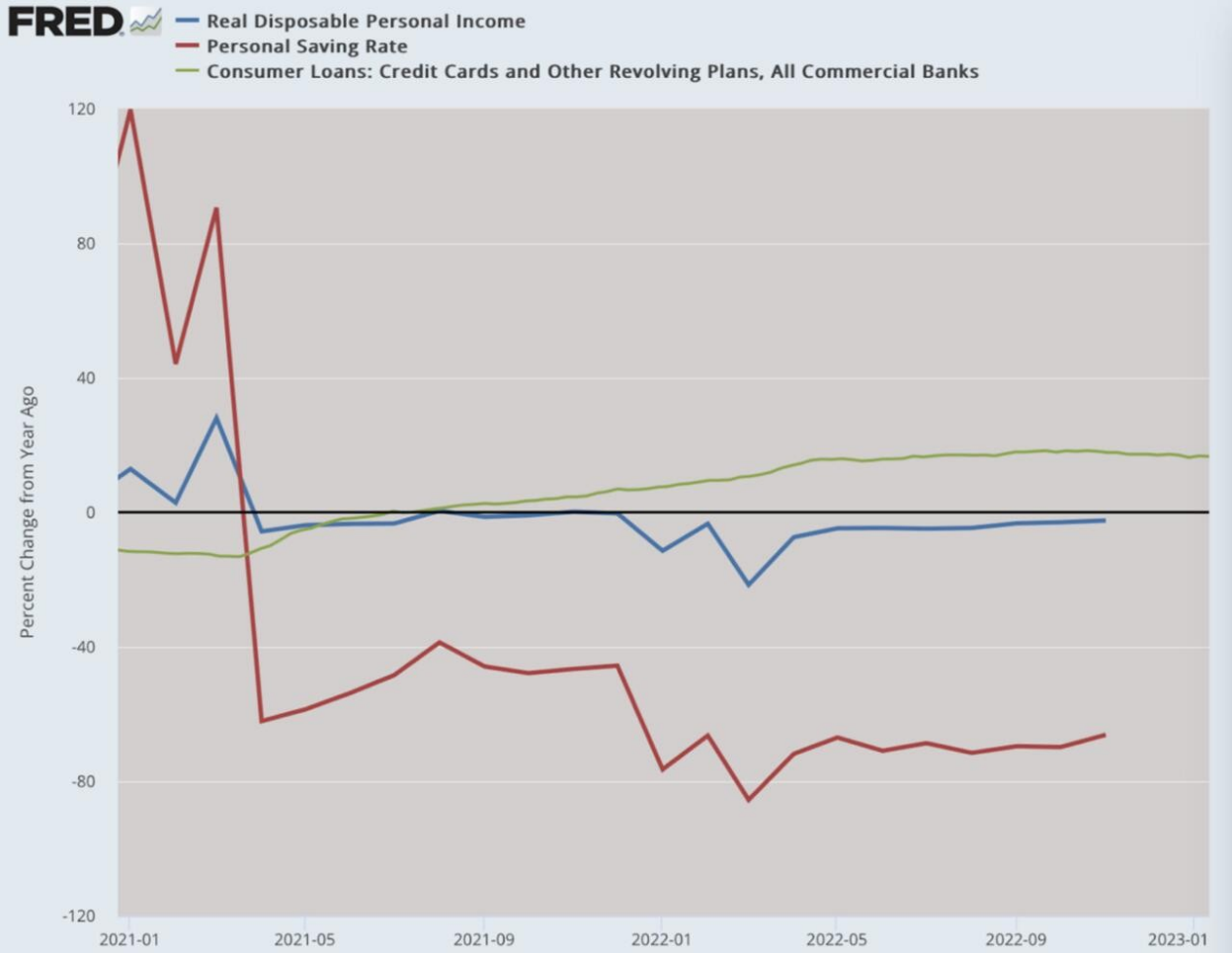
Some is up 50 percent and some is up 150 percent. This damage is absolutely not captured in the CPI, which has huge drawbacks by being calculated on an annual basis and for being a weighted index number that fails to capture the reality on the ground.

The reality you see on the shelves of your local store. The grocery prices tell the truth that you are being pillaged.


FRED
Average Price: Eggs, Grade A, Large (Cost per Dozen) in U.S. City Average
Average Price: Butter, Stick (Cost per Pound/453.6 Grams) in U.S. City Average
Average Price: Ground Beef, 100% Beef (Cost per Pound/453.6 Grams) in U.S. City Average
Average Price: Milk, Fresh, Whole, Fortified (Cost per Gallon/3.8 Liters) in U.S. City Average
Average Price: Coffee, 100%, Ground Roast, All Sizes (Cost per Pound/453.6 Grams) in U.S. City Average
Percent Change from Year Ago
140
120
100
80
60
40
20
0
-20
Jan 2021
Apr 2021
Jul 2021
Oct 2021
Jan 2022
Apr 2022
Jul 2022
Oct 2022

The pillaging is not limited to this problem however. And by the way, this is NOT going to improve. It would take a dramatic deflation to restore our living standards. The Fed will never permit that. At best, their intention is to take down the inflation rate to 2 percent per annum. It now stands at about 6 percent, maybe. So even if it happens to fall to zero, all prevailing prices will stick. That means that you have been robbed.

The fundamentals of household finance are even worse. Credit card balances are way up. Savings is way down. And real income (which is adjusted for inflation) has been falling now for 21 months straight. Truly, it's panic time but people are so beaten down and exhausted that they are not panicking. Most people have acquiesced in exhaustion of the shock and awe to which they have been subjected.



(Data: Federal Reserve Economic Data [FRED], St. Louis Fed; Chart: Jeffrey A. Tucker)

These charts portend terrible things for our future. It truly means the end of prosperity. In fact, middle-class people barely remember what that was like even though we experienced it as recently as 2019. We didn't have to choose between eating good food and heating our homes, paying our cell phone bill and going on vacation, drinking good wine and joining a gym. We could do all of those things.

No more. Our living standards have been taken down a peg or several. Of course it doesn't affect the very wealthy that gathered this week in Davos for the World Economic Forum. They have all the resources they need and can continue to live as always. It's the rest of us who are being ground down into the dirt.

Note too the smaller packages of everything, with producers shaving off ounces every few weeks. Try to buy the big packages like three years ago and you are

likely out of luck. My favorite Turkish coffee is the same price but half the size. Did humanity suddenly desire smaller quantities of things? No, this is just a way to disguise price increases without letting the consumer know.

The other day I bought movie tickets but the bottom-line price was higher than the units. That's because the software added a $5 "convenience fee." So great to know that now I have to pay an extra fee for delivery of an electronic good.

Remember when Uber and Lyft were cheap and even a good alternative to owning a car? Those days are long over. Now it costs $40 just to get across town in D.C. And New York City, forget it. **The prices are astronomical while the subways are more dangerous than ever. Might as well not go.**

This is what is happening to us.

Now, to the critical question. How was all this accomplished, this massive increase in taxation by surreptitious means? Please understand: this was accomplished not by Putin or greedy corporations but by the Federal Reserve. They have the legal power to counterfeit. They do it by buying government debt with money that had not previously existed. This new money makes it way through the economy, watering down the value of existing money.

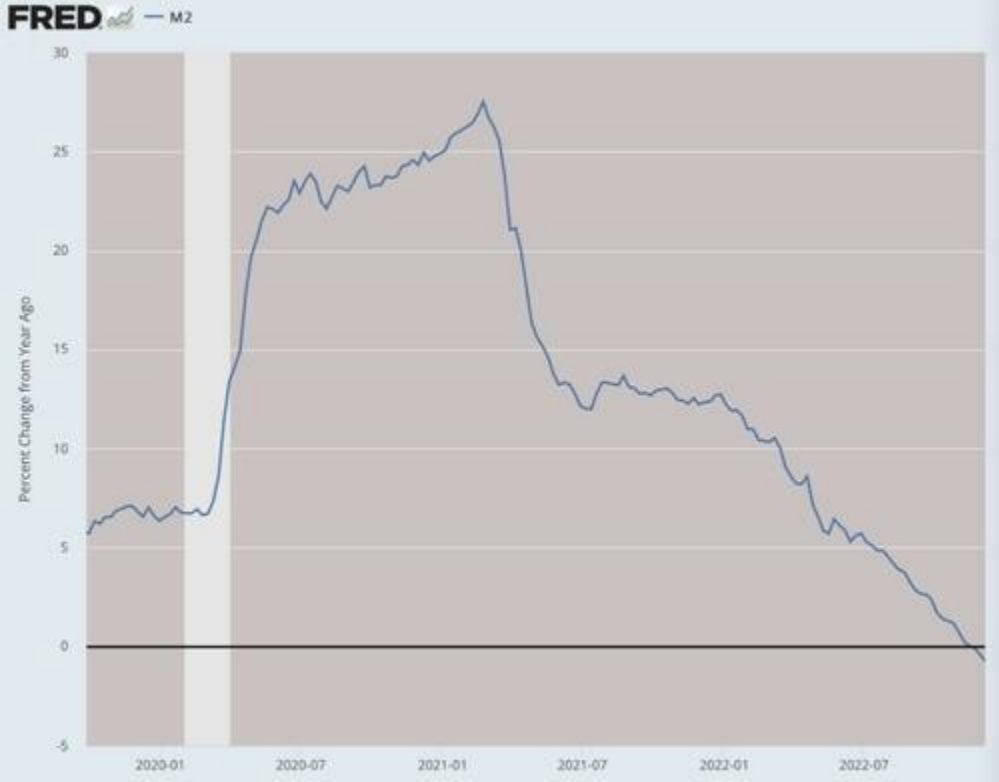
It's like this. Let's say you are holding a kids' birthday party and have only one can of frozen lemonade. But it turns out that 50 kids show up. You do what is possible to stretch the lemonade but each serving gets weaker. At some point it is just water. The kids start to notice. You have to explain that you bumped into the physical limits. The lemonade has become ever less valuable.

It's the same with the Fed. It does not matter that the dollar can buy more foreign currencies than ever. That has nothing to do with anything. What matters is not how much foreign currency it can buy but how many goods and services it can buy. The reason it buys far less traces to the outrageous monetary expansions of 2020 and 2021. That's the whole reason. At one point, monetary expansion was running 26 percent per year!

They robbed you to fund their outrageous lockdown experiment and put as many businesses and people on the payroll as possible. They might as well have dropped money from helicopters. Now we are paying the price for this monetary malfeasance.

And now?

For the first time ever, M2 is actually falling. How do you think that is going to work out? The mismanagement of our nation's money stock is breathtaking.



(Data: Federal Reserve Economic Data [FRED], St. Louis Fed; Chart: Jeffrey A. Tucker)

And did you see the idea of a $1 trillion coin floating around again? This has to be the biggest monetary hoax in history. You can't just mint a round coin, out of any material, even platinum, and cause new wealth to come into existence. The idea keeps popping up but nothing comes of it simply because the alchemy is too obvious even for the power elite to pull off.

Our rulers in D.C. have got themselves into a real fix. The people are furious about what is happening and everyone wants to know why. There is a growing populist movement out there that simply will not go along. We aren't giving up our gas stoves. We aren't going to eat bugs. And we aren't going to give up our birthright to freedom just because a bunch of partying clowns in Davos tell us we have to.

We really do face a choice right now. If we do not act and do not choose wisely, **we face a future of growing impoverishment, ill-health, and deprecated living standards. We are not doing this to ourselves.** They are doing it to us, and they will continue on this path so long as they can get away with it.

Markets: Inflation Is Still Here Despite Hype Over Broad Money's Collapse

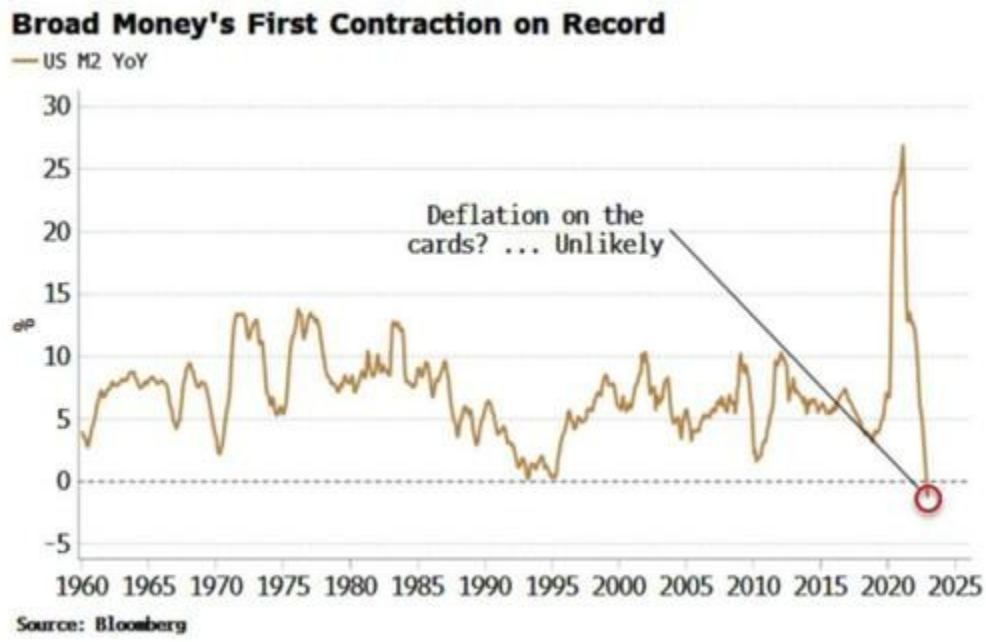
BY TYLER DURDEN
WEDNESDAY, JAN 25, 2023 - 10:39 AM

Authored by Simon White, Bloomberg macro strategist,

The first ever contraction in broad money should not be taken as a sign deflation is around the corner. **On the contrary, a closer look broad money's components shows inflationary forces are alive and well.**

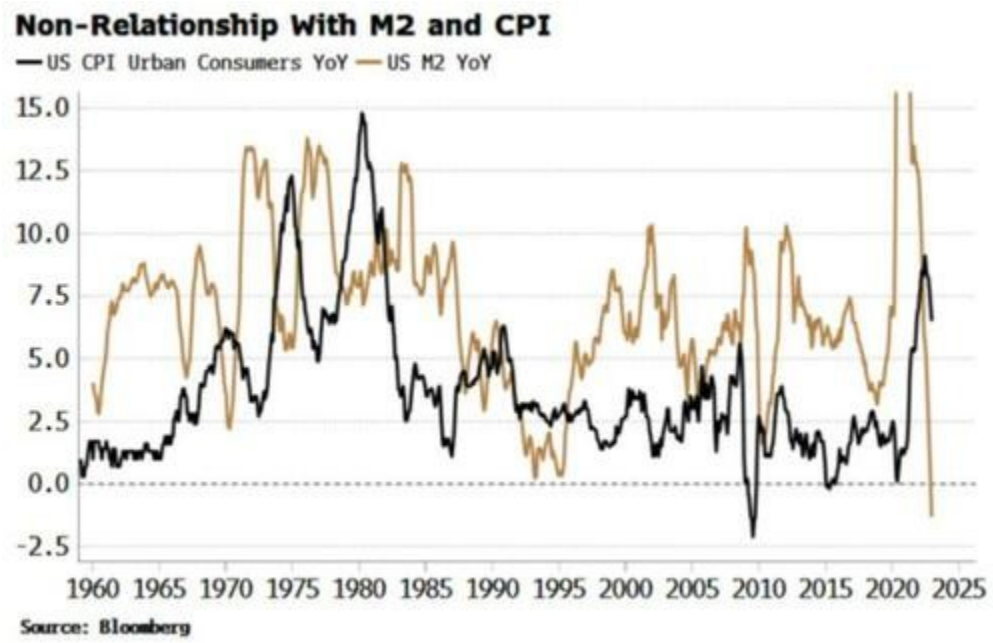
Underweights in real assets, low long-term yields and inverted yield curves show that the market continues to underestimate the long-term impact from persistent and entrenched inflation.

Broad money, or M2, just posted its first year-on-year decline in its 60-year history. But M2, and its narrow-money counterpart M1, are misunderstood in their impact on the economy.



Rises and falls in M2 are naively assumed to lead to rises and falls in inflation. But two variables that look correlated don't have to have a causative relationship, and the connection is in fact explained by a third variable.

M2 and inflation may look like they go up and down at similar times, but a closer inspection shows there is no strong relationship. **The fundamental issue with M2 that is frequently not appreciated is that it is counter-cyclical.**



The biggest constituent of M2 is savings deposits.

Unlike demand deposits, which is current-account money and deposit money created for loans, money tends to be moved into savings deposits when there is risk-aversion, or a perception of slowing growth.

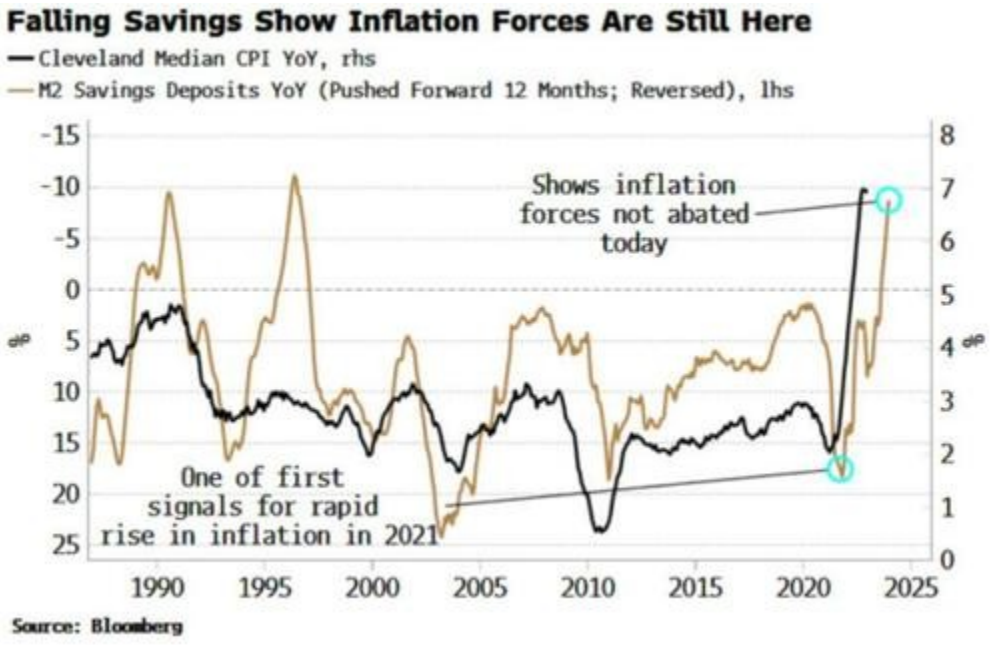
Vice-versa: money is often moved out of savings deposits and into current accounts when animal spirits are frothing. The rise in savings deposits in late 2020 was one of the first signs that a strong inflationary impulse in the US was coming in 2021.

There used to be a clear division between M1, which was mainly demand deposits, and M2, which was mainly savings deposits, until **May 2020 when the Fed decided that savings deposits would be swept into the Other Liquid Deposits component of M1**. *(This was due to an amendment to the Fed's Regulation D which made savings and demand deposits more fungible.)*

Nevertheless, we can reconstruct the savings-deposit data.

In the chart below it is reversed and pushed forward by 12 months, and we can see it clearly leads the inflation trend, as gauged by the Cleveland Fed's Median CPI.

Growth in savings deposits has not started to rise yet, showing that underlying inflationary forces have not abated.



Headline inflation is likely to continue to fall due the lagged impact of commodity-price falls and base effects, but the contraction in M2 is not giving any signals that the inflationary regime is coming to an end.

Markets: Short-Seller Hindenburg Targets India's Richest Man For "Brazen Stock Manipulation"

War: Ukrainian Deputy defense minister steps down

Ukraine's deputy infrastructure minister, Vasyl Lozynskyy, was dismissed and arrested over allegations of embezzlement.

War: **Turkey withdraws from over a dozen military bases in Duhok province: Sources, jan.25th**

Turkey has withdrawn troops from over a dozen military bases in Duhok province in a month, informed civilians and military sources in the area told Rudaw this week.

Turkey has established tens of military points in the Kurdistan Region in recent years in the framework of a series of offensives it has carried out against the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK). Twenty-seven of these bases have been set up following the launch of the so-called Operation Claw-Lock in April, Rudaw has learnt.

Civilian and security sources in Duhok province told Rudaw's Naif Ramadan on Sunday that Turkey had withdrawn 13 of its 27 military bases it had established since April.

In 2020, the Turkish presidency published a map in a tweet which purportedly showed nearly 40 Turkish "military points" in the Kurdistan Region. The tweet was later deleted.

War: jan.25th **Iran, Syria Set to Conduct Joint-Military Drills, Expand Cooperation; Since the start of the Syrian war, Iran has provided military support to Damascus against the Nusra Front, ISIS and other external terror threats**

Baqeri added that Tehran is fully willing to support Damascus in its fight against terrorism and other external threats. In 2020, Iran and Syria signed a comprehensive agreement to enhance their cooperation in the military and defense sectors.

Since the start of the Syrian conflict in 2011, Iran has provided Syria with military support against western-backed

militant groups. After initially losing considerable territory to al-Qaeda affiliated groups, including the Nusra Front and ISIS, Russia and Iran have fought alongside the Syria Arab Army (SAA) to recover much of this territory.

Earlier this month, a report released by *Newsweek* citing an anonymous US official disclosed that Iran had stepped up deployment of its air defense systems to Syria over the past two years.

As part of the increased supply of defense technology to Damascus, the report states that these deliveries include the latest generation of the locally produced Iranian Bavar-373 system and are aimed at helping Syria defend against illegal Israeli airstrikes in its territory.

As far back as 2013, Israel has been launching attacks against alleged Iranian and Hezbollah targets in Syria. It has recently intensified attacks on Syria's major airports to halt Tehran's increasing use of aerial supply lines to deliver arms to its allies in Syria, Lebanon, and the occupied Palestinian territories, regional diplomatic and intelligence sources say.

In 2018, Syrian troops accidentally downed a Russian aircraft, mistakenly thinking it was an Israeli jet that had earlier infiltrated the country's airspace to carry out strikes.

Moscow held Israel responsible for the incident, which left over a dozen Russian servicemen dead, prompting Russia to respond by delivering its renowned S-300 missile defense system to Syria.

History, church: : reformation, lutheranism: "The split between the Lutherans and the Roman Catholics was made public and clear with the 1521 Edict of Worms: the edicts of the Diet condemned Luther and officially banned citizens of the Holy Roman Empire from defending or propagating his ideas, subjecting advocates of Lutheranism to forfeiture of all property, half of the seized property to be forfeited to the imperial government and the remaining half forfeit to the party who brought the accusation."

The split between the Lutherans and the Roman Catholics was made public and clear with the 1521 Edict of Worms: the edicts of the Diet condemned Luther and officially banned citizens of the Holy Roman Empire from defending or propagating his ideas, subjecting advocates of Lutheranism to forfeiture of all property, half of the seized property to be forfeited to the imperial government and the remaining half forfeit to the party who brought the accusation.[3]

Lutheranism spread through all of Scandinavia during the 16th century, as the monarch of Denmark–Norway (also ruling Iceland and the Faroe Islands) and the monarch of Sweden (also ruling Finland) adopted Lutheranism. Through Baltic-German and Swedish rule, Lutheranism also spread into Estonia and Latvia.

The first complete Bible in Danish was based on Martin Luther's translation into German. It was published in 1550 with 3,000 copies printed in the first edition; a second edition was published in 1589.[15] Unlike Catholicism, the Lutheran Church does not believe that tradition is a carrier of the "Word of God", or that only the communion of the Bishop of Rome has been entrusted to interpret the "Word of God".[9][16]

The Reformation in Sweden began with Olaus and Laurentius Petri, brothers who took the Reformation to Sweden after studying in Germany. They led Gustav Vasa, elected king in 1523, to Lutheranism. The pope's refusal to allow the replacement of an archbishop who had supported the invading forces opposing Gustav Vasa during the Stockholm Bloodbath led to the severing of any official connection between Sweden and the papacy in 1523.[10]

Four years later, at the Diet of Västerås [sv], the king succeeded in forcing the diet to accept his dominion over the national church. The king was given possession of all church properties, as well as the church appointments and approval of the clergy. While this effectively granted official sanction to Lutheran ideas,[10] Lutheranism did not become official until 1593. At that time the Uppsala Synod declared Holy Scripture the sole guideline for faith, with four documents accepted as faithful and authoritative explanations of it: the *Apostles' Creed*, the *Nicene Creed*, the *Athanasian Creed*, and the unaltered *Augsburg Confession* of 1530.[17] Mikael Agricola's translation of the first *Finnish New Testament* was published in 1548.[18]

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lutheranism

war: However, despite the growing number of countries sending armored vehicles to Kyiv, it is still waiting for German Leopard 2 tanks. A decision on whether or not Berlin would finally heed Ukraine’s request was supposed to be released last week, but German Defense Minister Boris Pistorius said his country needs more time. “There are good reasons for the delivery and there are good reasons against it. And given the overall situation of a war that has been going on for almost one year now, all the pros and cons have to be weighed very carefully, and that assessment is explicitly shared by many allies,” Pistorius told reporters. Jan.24th

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War: Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan on Monday said that Sweden should not expect support from Ankara on its NATO bid in response to anti-Islam protests that took place in Sweden over the weekend. Jan24

War: German Chancellor Olaf Scholz previously said he was not providing tanks to Ukraine because he wanted to avoid a direct clash between Russia and NATO. But the US and other NATO countries are less concerned about escalating the war and put heavy pressure on Berlin to send the tanks. Hawks in Congress have been pressuring the Biden administration to provide the Abrams, with Rep. Michael McCaul (R-TX), the head of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, demanding the US send "just one" tank to get Berlin to oblige. Jan24

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The US providing its main battle tank would mark the latest significant escalation of military aid for Ukraine. In January alone, the US pledged over

$5.5 billion in military aid for Ukraine and started providing Bradley and Stryker fighting vehicles for the first time.

The funds for the military aid are being pulled from the latest aid package for Ukraine that was passed in December. At this point, the US has authorized about $113 billion to spend on the war since Russia's February 2022 invasion.

War: **Russian Warship Armed With Hypersonic Missiles To Join China In South Africa-Hosted Drills**

History, Germany: **(paywall) Hate Speech and Identity Politics in Germany, 1848-1914**

https://www.jstor.org/stable/43965202

markets: jan24 **Investors Surge Back Into Oil At Fastest Pace In 5 Years***By John Kemp, senior market analyst*

media, stats, tech, censorship, journal: **nice deepsearched zh comment (suspect those are the only ones that are real): All social media resources, all media resources are 100% controlled, no matter who, law enforcement agencies, governments, the head of state, but they are controlled. You don’t have to search far, reach out to the keyboard and you are here... Having written absolute facts that reflect reality, you simply fall under the BAN, or at least under the pressure of smart BOT programs, hot-weave algorithms, etc. Moreover, all postal services, all e-mail services without exception, are controlled by the same structures... Even 30 years ago, I could not even imagine that the United States would turn from a country of democracy and freedom of speech into a country of autocracy with an authoritarian regime, with the highest rate of corruption in the upper echelons of power.**

Censorship: **scary comments from high lkevel eu bureaucrat about censorship and banning twitter**

EU Commissioner for Values and Transparency Věra Jourová makes a statement from the frozen doorstep of Davos **arguing that Twitter is subject to EU rules for preventing "harm to society".**

“The time of the Wild West is over,” Jourova told EuroNews.

“We will have the Digital Services Act [DSA]. We will have the Code of Practice as a part of this legislation.”

"So, after Mr Musk took over Twitter with his 'freedom of speech absolutism,' we are the protectors of freedom of speech as well," she added.

"But at the same time, we cannot accept, for instance, illegal content online and so on. So, our message was clear: ***we have rules which have to be complied with, otherwise there will be sanctions.****"*

It should be noted that these same bureaucrats were defending Twitter operations as a private company only a year ago (as long as company policies fell in line with government messaging). As soon as Twitter started to allow more free speech, suddenly its operations as a private company became an international problem.

Again, the conflict is about one question - Should people be allowed say what they want and share the information that they want within the confines of constitutional law? For those that believe the answer is no, we have to then ask "Why?" What about free speech is so threatening to them? Can mere speech really do damage to society? Is this really about public safety? Or, is it about power, and the means to lie to the public while removing their ability to contradict?

Markets, war: **cool quote from current working european high level banker: "we see not only 'Bretton Woods 3!" fist-pumping, but the Financial Times at Davos asking, 'The Era of Markets Ended in 2019: What Comes Next?', and Wolfgang Munchau noting, 'As globalisation fragments, politics is again reigning supreme over economics.'"**

more from the same post...

With the emergence of neoclassical economics under Walras and Jevons, et al., *political*-economy was jettisoned and replaced with 'equilibrium' maths and 'logical' twaddle – as well as the historical record that the worst parts of Classical economics carried over into the neoclassical were the linked to Western imperialism: free trade (and colonialism) were spread by the British *literally* at gun point. In fact, as Adam Tooze underlined this week in a reference to Slobodian's 'Globalists' this week, neoliberal, neoclassical economics, partially emerged from the collapse of the Habsburg Empire post-WWI, where: "*Austrian economists of the 1920s saw the democratic nation-state as a threat to the free flow of resources that had been previously secured by Imperial power. A new political economy was required to encase the economy*

and insulate it from democratic national sovereignty." In short, it was an excuse to keep political-economy vested-interest power structures in place before voters could get a say and redistribute any capital.

Censorship, tech: **Case 1:23-cv-00108:DOJ complaint, "Google controls more than a quarter of all US digital ads;Google keeps at least thirty cents—and sometimes far more—of each advertising dollar flowing from advertisers to website publishers through Google's ad tech tools"**

https://www.wsj.com/articles/google-critic-is-cleared-to-work-on-u-s-antitrust-matters-involving-search-giant-11673637343

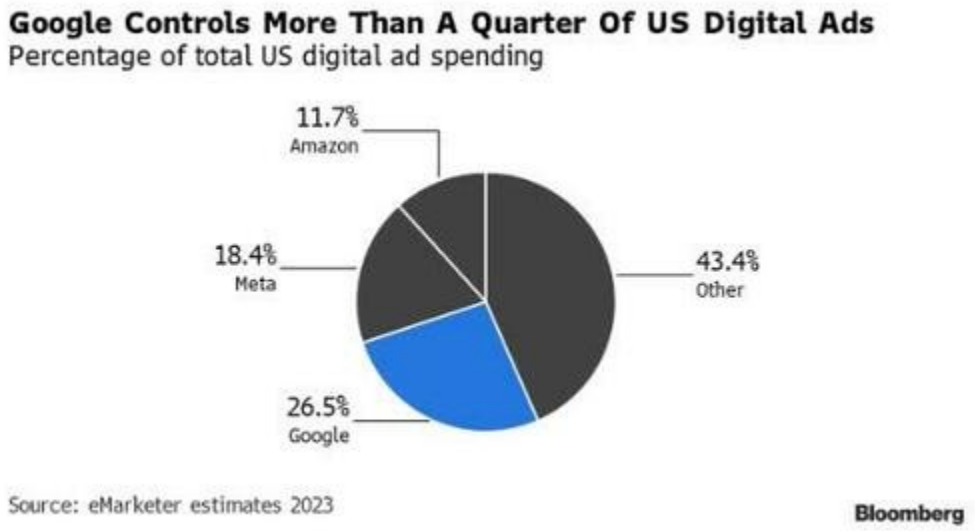
s3dotdocumentclouddotorg/documents/23584905/justice-department-lawsuit-against-google.pdf

*"**But competition in the ad tech space is broken, for reasons that were neither accidental nor inevitable. One industry behemoth, Google, has corrupted legitimate competition in the ad tech industry by engaging in a systematic campaign to seize control of the wide swath of high-tech tools used by publishers, advertisers, and brokers, to facilitate digital advertising**. Having inserted itself into all aspects of the digital advertising marketplace, Google has used anticompetitive, exclusionary, and unlawful means to eliminate or severely diminish any threat to its dominance over digital advertising technologies," the complaint said.*

And the DOJ complaint continued:

***"The harm is clear: website creators earn less**, and advertisers pay more, than they would in a market where unfettered competitive pressure could discipline prices and lead to more innovative ad tech tools that would ultimately result in higher quality and lower cost transactions for market participants. **And this conduct hurts all of us because, as publishers make less money from advertisements, fewer publishers are able to offer internet content without subscriptions, paywalls, or alternative forms of monetization**. One troubling, but revealing, statistic demonstrates the point: on average, **Google keeps at least thirty cents—and sometimes far more—of each advertising dollar flowing from advertisers to website publishers through Google's ad tech tools. Google's own internal documents concede that Google would earn far less in a competitive market**."*

Google controls more than a quarter of all US digital ads, according to Bloomberg data.



Markets: **Jeremy Grantham Doubles Down On Market Apocalypse, Warns Of 17% Crash, Doesn't Rule Out "Brutal Decline" To 2,000, jan24**

War: **U.S. and germany edge closer to agreement sending tanks; poland needs german permission first, but eager to support ukraine--doomsday clock breaks another record**

"**The Biden administration is leaning toward sending a significant number of Abrams M1 tanks** to Ukraine and an announcement of the deliveries could come this week, U.S. officials said," the report indicates.

At the moment, a reluctant German government is coming under immense pressure to allow its Leopard 2 main battle tanks to be transferred to Ukrainian forces. Poland is leading the way in this pressure campaign.

"The announcement would be part of a broader diplomatic understanding with Germany in which Berlin would agree to send a smaller number of its own Leopard 2 tanks and would also approve the delivery of more of the German-made tanks by Poland and other nations," WSJ continues. "It would settle a

trans-Atlantic disagreement over the tanks that had threatened to open fissures as the war drags into the end of its first year."

Earlier this month Berlin signaled that would authorize the Leopards if Washington made the first move and took the initiative on sending the Abrams.

As of Tuesday the Polish government says it has **formally submitted its request to Berlin to send the tanks**. Germany by law must first authorize these transfers of its German-manufactured military items by other nations.

"The Germans have already received our request for consent to transfer Leopard 2 tanks to Ukraine," Polish Defense Minister Mariusz Błaszczak confirmed on Tuesday. "I also appeal to the German side to join the coalition of countries supporting Ukraine with Leopard 2 tanks."

Despite prior signals that Berlin would not be approving the transfer anytime soon for stated reasons of wishing to avoid escalation with Russia, as predicted it looks as if Germany is weakening under pressure.

Bloomberg reports Tuesday that "**Germany is expected to give Poland approval as soon as Wednesday to re-export** its German-made Leopard tanks to Ukraine, according to people familiar with the matter, who asked not to be identified because the decision is private."

This despite repeat warnings from Russian officials this week that 'global catastrophe' could be unleashed if the West keeps pumping heavier weapons in the conflict, also amid nuclear escalation warnings.

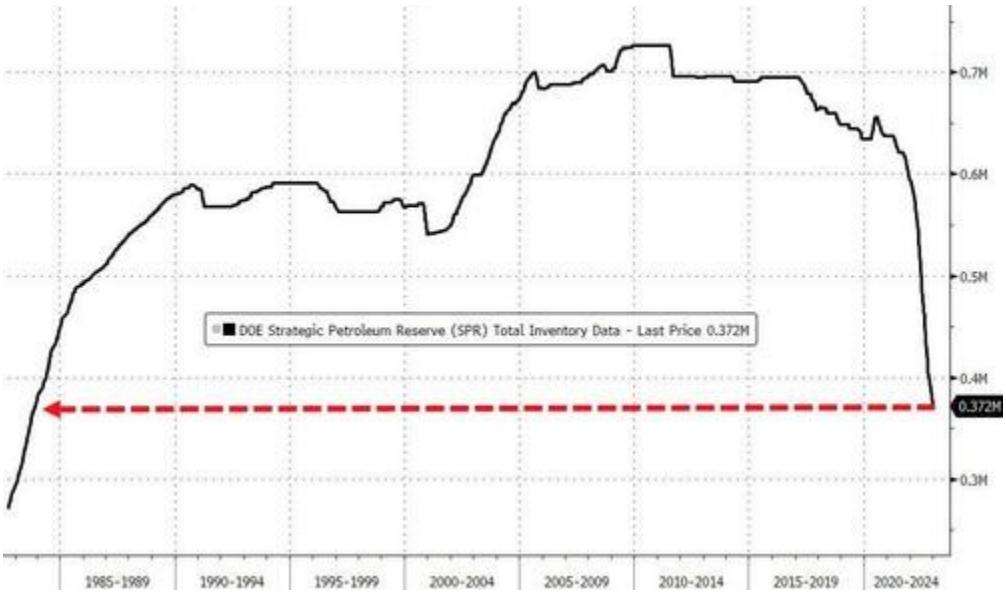
Markets, war: **Gasoline prices continue to climb for the fourth straight week, rising 32.7 cents over the last month as crude oil prices rise, data from AAA showed on Monday. Jan24**

Gasoline prices are rising along with the rise in WTI crude oil prices, which are up $3 per barrel from a week ago, and up $2 per barrel from a month ago... and given the lags of the supply chain, pump prices are set to go considerably higher...

In addition to rising crude oil prices, gasoline prices are rising as “continued refinery challenges kept supply of gasoline from rising more substantially,” Patrick DeHaan, head of petroleum analysis at GasBuddy said in a Monday note.

“Macroeconomic factors have continued to weigh on oil and refined products, as strong demand in China hasn’t been slowed much by a surge in new Covid cases.

In addition, releases of crude oil from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve have wrapped up.



Concerns are increasing that without additional oil, supply will tighten in the weeks ahead, *especially as the nation starts to move away from softer demand in the height of winter. Moving forward, it doesn't look good for motorists, with prices likely to continue accelerating," DeHaan added.*

U.S. crude oil inventories have risen over the last two weeks by leaps and bounds, while gasoline inventories also grew, but by a lesser amount. **Still, gasoline inventories are below the five-year average for this time of year.**

Markets, war:
Inflation has not peaked. And the data confirms this.

Almost ALL of the drop in inflation data has come from energy prices falling. And energy prices have fallen because the Biden administration dumped over 250 MILLION barrels of oil from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve (SPR).

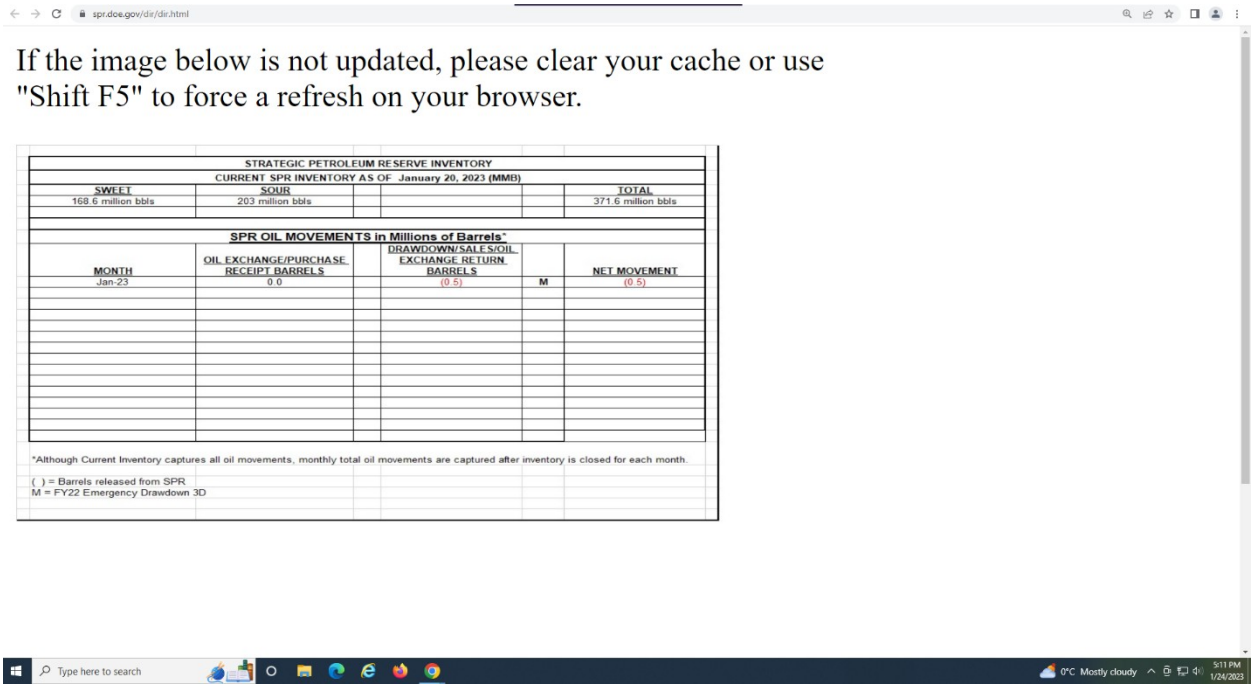
Chair Rodgers Applauds Passage of H.R. 22 to Prevent the Sale of SPR Oil to China

"To cover up his failed policies driving our energy and inflation crisis, President Biden is draining our nation's Strategic Petroleum Reserves at an alarming rate. America's SPR – once the world's largest stockpile – has

been depleted to the lowest levels since 1983. To date, President Biden has released more from the SPR than all U.S. presidents in history combined.Jan 12, 2023

Washington, D.C. — House Energy and Commerce Committee Chair Cathy McMorris Rodgers (R-WA) released the following statement on the passage of H.R. 22, the *Protecting America's Strategic Petroleum Reserve from China Act*, out of the House, out of the House by a bipartisan vote of 331-97:

"To cover up his failed policies driving our energy and inflation crisis, President Biden is draining our nation's Strategic Petroleum Reserves at an alarming rate. America's SPR – once the world's largest stockpile – has been depleted to the lowest levels since 1983. To date, President Biden has released more from the SPR than all U.S. presidents in history combined. Millions of barrels of that oil have gone to China, which now has the world's largest government-controlled stockpile of oil. Draining our strategic reserves for political purposes and selling it to China is a significant threat to our national and energy security. This must be stopped, which is why I'm proud to join my Republican colleagues in passing H.R. 22, one of the most bipartisan votes on an energy bill in many years and multiple Congresses. There's more to come. This is just the beginning."



If the image below is not updated, please clear your cache or use "Shift F5" to force a refresh on your browser.

STRATEGIC PETROLEUM RESERVE INVENTORY

CURRENT SPR INVENTORY AS OF January 20, 2023 (MMB)

SWEET	SOUR				TOTAL
168.6 million bbls	203 million bbls				371.6 million bbls

SPR OIL MOVEMENTS in Millions of Barrels*

MONTH	OIL EXCHANGE/PURCHASE RECEIPT BARRELS		DRAWDOWN/SALES/OIL EXCHANGE RETURN BARRELS		NET MOVEMENT
Jan-23	0.0		(0.5)	M	(0.5)

*Although Current Inventory captures all oil movements, monthly total oil movements are captured after inventory is closed for each month.

( ) = Barrels released from SPR
M = FY22 Emergency Drawdown 3D

"The longer I'm in this business, the clearer it becomes that no one actually reads anymore. Everyone simply trumpets headlines, or retweets articles, without looking at the data.

The latest and most glaring example of this is the claim that "inflation has peaked." Everywhere you look in the media (and on social media) people repeat this statement as if it is a fact.

"Almost ALL of the drop in inflation data has come from energy prices falling. And energy prices have fallen because the Biden administration dumped over 250 MILLION barrels of oil from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve (SPR).

To put this into perspective, it's nearly 40% of the SPR. And the Biden admin dumped it in the span of less than two years. *THAT* is why energy prices dropped, which accounts for almost ALL of the drop in inflation data.

See for yourself. Outside of the drop in energy prices, the only significant drop in prices occurred in used car vehicles. Everything else is still RISING in price year over year.

	Seasonally adjusted changes from preceding month							Un-adjusted 12-mos. ended Dec. 2022
	Jun. 2022	Jul. 2022	Aug. 2022	Sep. 2022	Oct. 2022	Nov. 2022	Dec. 2022	
All items	1.3	0.0	0.1	0.4	0.4	0.1	-0.1	6.5
Food	1.0	1.1	0.8	0.8	0.6	0.5	0.3	10.4
Food at home	1.0	1.3	0.7	0.7	0.4	0.5	0.2	11.8
Food away from home(1)	0.9	0.7	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.5	0.4	8.3
Energy	7.5	-4.6	-5.0	-2.1	1.8	-1.6	-4.5	7.3
Energy commodities	10.4	-7.6	-10.1	-4.7	4.4	-2.0	-9.4	0.4
Gasoline (all types)	11.2	-7.7	-10.6	-4.9	4.0	-2.0	-9.4	-1.5
Fuel oil(1)	-1.2	-11.0	-5.9	-2.7	19.8	1.7	-16.6	41.5
Energy services	3.5	0.1	2.1	1.1	-1.2	-1.1	1.5	15.6
Electricity	1.7	1.6	1.5	0.4	0.1	-0.2	1.0	14.3
Utility (piped) gas service	8.2	-3.6	3.5	2.9	-4.6	-3.5	3.0	19.3
All items less food and energy	0.7	0.3	0.6	0.6	0.3	0.2	0.3	5.7
Commodities less food and energy commodities	0.8	0.2	0.5	0.0	-0.4	-0.5	-0.3	2.1
New vehicles	0.7	0.6	0.8	0.7	0.4	0.0	-0.1	5.9
Used cars and trucks	1.6	-0.4	-0.1	-1.1	-2.4	-2.9	-2.5	-8.8
Apparel	0.8	-0.1	0.2	-0.3	-0.7	0.2	0.5	2.9
Medical care commodities(1)	0.4	0.6	0.2	-0.1	0.0	0.2	0.1	3.2
Services less energy services	0.7	0.4	0.6	0.8	0.5	0.4	0.5	7.0
Shelter	0.6	0.5	0.7	0.7	0.8	0.6	0.8	7.5
Transportation services	2.1	-0.5	0.5	1.9	0.8	-0.1	0.2	14.6
Medical care services	0.7	0.4	0.8	1.0	-0.6	-0.7	0.1	4.1

Footnotes
(1) Not seasonally adjusted.

See not sure if this is real lol. It obviously is, but it's just what he's saying is completely the opposite of what practically everybody in the msm business media is reporting right now, so I have to just...double check to be sure. He continues on below.

"I bring all of this up because now that the Biden admin is no longer dumping tens of millions of barrels of oil on the open market, energy prices are bottoming.

Oil has bottomed and is starting to turn up.

So, unless President Biden wants to empty the SPR to zero, this “inflation has peaked” narrative is over. Inflation is coming back in a big way. And NO ONE is positioned for it."

AND ADDED THIS LATER BECAUSE I FORGOT TO ADD TO FIRST MESSAGE

The sudden turn around seems to have been driven by a combination of low initial positioning and a sudden increase in confidence about the outlook for the global economy and oil consumption. **Recent inflation data have shown the rate of price increases is moderating, which has raised hopes for an early peak in the interest rate cycle.**

Markets, war: A Financial Times investigation based on leaked emails and documents, as well as corporate records, export certificates and interviews, demonstrates how Prigozhin has used leading corporate lawyers around the world to try to keep western governments at bay.

War: jan24

more escalation, THINGS AT MAJOR TURNING POINT. VERY SCARY. GERMANY KNOWS THAT ITS DECISION TO SEND THE TANKS WILL BE WW3

US, Israel Launch 'Most Significant' Drills in History

Netanyahu Vows to Bring Fired Minister Dery Back Intro Govt

Poland to Seek Berlin's OK to Send Ukraine Tanks

DM Reznikov Under Fire as Corruption Probes Rock Ukraine

Russia Says Still No Plans for New START Talks

Lavrov Says the West's 'Hybrid War' on Russia Becoming a 'Real War'

House Speaker McCarthy Plans to Visit Taiwan

Erdogan Says Turkey Won't Support Sweden's NATO Bid

Mission Creep? How the US Role in Ukraine Has Slowly Escalated

by Branko Marcetic

Frontline

- US Military Vets in Ukraine Are Fighting Each Other in Court
- Saudi-Led Coalition Shelling Kills Two, Injures Four in Northern Yemen
- Turkey Exploring Massive UK Arms Deal Involving Planes, Ships and Tank Engines

Ukraine

- Head of Russian-Occupied Parts of Ukraine's Donetsk Says Visited Soledar
- Italy Confirms Samp-T Missile-Defense Donation to Ukraine
- EU Agrees Extra $540 Million to Arm Ukraine
- Zelensky Ally Threatens Jailings After High-Profile Graft Allegations
- Hungary Won't Veto EU Arms Funding to Ukraine, Official Says
- Russia Presses Attack in Ukraine's South While Kyiv Waits for Arms

Tanks for Ukraine?

Rheinmetall Could Deliver 139 Leopard Tanks to Ukraine

A Look at Leopard 2 Tanks That Could Soon Be Sent to Ukraine

Finland Says It Is Awaiting Germany's Decision to Send Leopard Tanks

Morocco First African Nation to Provide Tanks to Ukraine: Report

Explainer: How to Correctly Re-Export German Tanks

Russia

Russia Declares US Sakharov Foundation 'Undesirable'

Russia Says Ukraine Storing Arms at Nuclear Plants, Kyiv Denies

Russia, Estonia Expel Ambassadors Amid 'Destroyed' Relations

In Moscow, Quiet Antiwar Protest With Flowers, Plush Toys

Russian Crude Exports From Baltic Ports See 50% Hike in January

Tokyo to Pursue Peace Treaty With Moscow Despite Strained Ties: PM

Russia Says Held Air Defense Training in Moscow Region

Italy

Italy to Wean Itself Off Russian Gas Within Two Years

Documents Reveal Italy as Customer of Hero-30 Kamikaze Drones

Nagorno-Karabakh

EU Greenlights Armenia Mission to Ease Border Tensions

US Seeks Immediate Reopening of Key Corridor to Ease Armenia-Azerbaijan Tensions

Europe

Bulgaria Destroys Mine Drifting Near Its Black Sea Coast

US Says Finland, Sweden Are Ready to Join NATO Alliance

- Germany Starts Deploying Patriot Air Defense Units to Poland
- Norway Arrests Former Wagner Fighter Who Seeks Asylum
- President Vucic Says Serbia Faces International Isolation Over Kosovo
- UK Grid to Pay Households for Using Less Energy During Cold Snap

Afghanistan

- Families Leave Homes in Afghanistan's Farah District Over Lack of Schools
- UN Continues to Support Afghan Women: Official
- Afghanistan Faces Unprecedented Humanitarian Crisis: UN Agency
- Iran Seeks Commitment to Water Treaty With Afghanistan

Pakistan

- Pakistan Hit by Nationwide Power Outage After Grid Failure
- IED Attack Kills Soldier in Pakistan

Asia

- Philippines President Marcos Seeks Foreign Minister Talks With China on Sea Feuds
- Taiwan President Tells Pope War With China Not an Option
- Japanese PM Kishida Prioritizes Arms Buildup, Reversing Low Birthrate

Latin America

- Cuba Begins London Court Battle Over Unpaid Castro-Era Debt
- Mexico's Former Safety Chief Goes on Trial in US Drug Case

New Israeli Government

- Israel's AG Denies Considering Declaring Netanyahu Unfit for Office
- Israeli Coalition to Destroy New Palestinian Homes in Area C
- Central Bank Policymaker Quits

to Fight Israel's Judicial Overhaul
Former Israeli Defense Legal Adviser Warns Against Planned Government Moves in West Bank

Palestine/Israel

Protests After Israeli Threats to Remove Palestinian Village
Israeli Army Admits to 'Unnecessary' Killing of Palestinian
HRW Warns Israeli Rules in West Bank Risks 'Another Gaza'
Israeli Occupation Forces Arrest 16 Palestinians, Including 13-Year-Old Child
Israel Outraged by 'Irresponsible' Visit of Western Envoys to Al-Aqsa Mosque
Israel Formally Requests 25 F-15 EX jets From the US: Sources

Iraq

Iraq Daily Roundup: 11 Killed
Sadr Stages Unexpected Political Comeback Through Iraq's Gulf Cup Victory
Iraqi PM Walks Diplomatic Tightrope in Crackdown on Dollars Smuggled to Iran
Iraqis Injured in Anti-Sweden Protest in Baghdad After Koran Burning
Iraqi PM Replaces Central Bank Governor Over Currency Drop

Iran

Iran, Syria Set to Conduct Joint-Military Drills, Expand Cooperation
More Sanctions as Iran and EU Clash Over IRGC 'Terror' Label

Syria

Russia, Syria Restore Syrian Air Base for Joint Use
Turkey-Backed Fighters Cut Olive Trees in Afrin

Lebanon

Investigation Into Beirut Explosion Resumes After 13 Months of Stalemate

Border Tensions Between Lebanese Army, Israel Escalate

Middle East

UK Royal Navy Takes Over Middle East Maritime Security Task Force
Jordan OKs Purchase of 12 Block 70 F-16s From Lockheed Martin
Egypt Lawyers End Strike After Colleagues Released Over Court Altercation
Kuwait's Government Resigns Amid Struggle With Assembly

Africa

Algeria, Italy Look to Broaden Ties Beyond Coveted Energy
Morocco Votes to Review Ties With European Parliament
Burkina Faso Ends French Military Accord, Says It Will Defend Itself

Cameroon Denies Asking for Help to Mediate Separatist Conflict

Suspected ADF Rebels Kill 23 in East DR Congo Attack
Governor Declares Emergency in Sudan Province After Four Killed
'The Crocodile Has Not Changed': Zimbabwe Opposition Warns of Election Violence

The War at Home

Military Probing Whether Cancers Linked to Nuclear Silo Work at Malmstrom AFB
US and Japan Team Up for Indo-Pacific Training Exercise
US Drops Case Against Marine Veteran Cop Accused of Spying for China
US: Ex-FBI Counterintelligence Agent Aided Russian Oligarch

Brazil

Lula Says Brazil and Argentina Will Study Common Currency for Trade
Venezuela Calls Off Maduro Meeting With Lula, Brazil Govt

Says

Markets, war: US NatGas Prices Soar After Freeport "Completed Repairs" Of Damaged Terminal, Aims For Partial Restart

US natural gas futures jumped late in the session after news hit that Freeport LNG, a major liquefied natural gas export terminal on the Texas coast which has been closed since an explosion last summer, said repairs to the terminal are complete and is seeking approval for restart.

Freeport wrote a letter to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) requesting permission to restart the terminal that accounts for about 15% of all US LNG exports.

Pursuant to your letter dated June 30, 2022, Freeport LNG Development, LP ("Freeport") ***must obtain written approval from FERC before restarting*** *any non-emergency operations in existing facilities, constructing new or modified facilities, and commissioning and placing any facilities back into service.*

As further described herein, ***Freeport has completed repairs*** *to the Export Facility on Quintana Island, Texas, performed safety reviews, revised various procedures, implemented new safety systems and performed necessary training in order to* ***safely begin to resume initial operations at its Export Facility****.*

NatGas surged 9% to $3.45 per million British thermal units.

In recent weeks, we've pointed out Freeport flows were indications the plant was nearing a restart:

- *NatGas Flows Start To Freeport LNG's Long-Shut Export Plant*
- *Freeport LNG Export Facility's Power Flows Surge For First Time Since Explosion*

However, Houston-based energy firm Criterion Research had this to say:

Criterion's weekly analysis of progress at Freeport LNG indicated that repair work was still taking place as of last week, so it's unclear what Freeport means when it cited that they have "completed repairs." We don't believe feed gas will be flowing in January, and February still seems to be an optimistic time frame for strong nominations. Based on prior announcements, once they get the green light to restart, Freeport's timeline pinned down a ramp from zero to 2 Bcf/d over an approximately two-month period.

Here's Freeport's full letter to FERC:

Any February cold weather across the Lower 48, plus the Freeport export restart, could be bullish catalysts for reversing months of sliding NatGas prices.

Social Security Will Be Bankrupt By 2033 On Current Trajectory: CBO Report jan24

Health, masks: Australians Were Once Prosecuted For Claiming Face Masks Worked Against Viruses

Australians who tried to sell surgical face masks on the back of claims they worked against viruses were once threatened with prosecution and massive fines by the government.

Yes, really.

An article titled 'Farce mask: it's safe for only 20 minutes' published by the Sydney Morning Herald in 2003 explained how, "Retailers who cash in on community fears about SARS by exaggerating the health benefits of surgical masks could face fines of up to $110,000."

The article quotes a public health experts who said that face masks are largely useless at stopping the spread of viruses and could even worsen the situation.

"Those masks are only effective so long as they are dry," said Professor Yvonne Cossart of the Department of Infectious Diseases at the University of Sydney.

"As soon as they become saturated with the moisture in your breath they stop doing their job and pass on the droplets."

Twenty years ago Australians were prosecuted for saying masks work against viruses. Now they get arrested for not wearing masks during viral outbreaks.

As Mencken said, our governments are dishonest, insane and intolerable. @smh https://t.co/wIGcvbW2OH https://t.co/XWVIEoNlpy pic.twitter.com/coaGDxa1SZ

— Tony Heller (@TonyClimate) January 23, 2023

Professor Cossart said that the masks would need to be changed every 15-20 minutes to be in any way effective.

Her sentiments were echoed by John Bell from the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia, who said that masks only offered "marginal benefit" and were largely psychological in their level of protection.

The story is noteworthy because during the COVID pandemic, the Australian government imposed one of the strictest lockdowns in the world and used face mask mandates as a brutal tool of population control.

As we previously highlighted, authorities in Melbourne used high-tech surveillance drones to catch people outside not wearing masks.

At the height of the hysteria, there were numerous instances of police in Australia physically attacking people for not adhering to mask wearing rules, including one incident when a woman was placed in a chokehold by a male police officer.

Another video showed an elderly woman being arrested for not wearing a mask while sitting on a park bench.

Yet another clip showed police pepper spraying pre-teen children for not wearing face masks.

Another clip showed an elderly man suffering a suspected heart attack after he was arrested by police for not wearing a mask outside while exercising.

During the early months of the COVID pandemic, health authorities advised against wearing masks, only to subsequently do a 180 once face coverings became a convenient psychological tool of population control.

China, war, health: China Says Over 80% Of Population Infected With COVID, No Risk Of Virus Rebound

Remember when rational voices asked why, instead of locking down its economy every time there was even a small breakout of the Wu-flu, China (or the US for that matter) didn't simply do the right thing and allow covid to sweep through the land, creating a buffer of natural immunity and burn out on its own? Well, after bizarrely resisting the inevitable (one day we hope to have an answer why Xi Jinping pushed so hard for the now defunct Covid-zero policy) for so long, that's precisely what China has now down and on Saturday, a prominent government scientist said that **the possibility of a big COVID-19 rebound in China over the next two or three months is remote as 80% of people have now been infected, reaching the herd immunity threshold.**

While the mass movement of people during the ongoing Lunar New Year holiday period may spread the pandemic, boosting infections in some areas, a second COVID wave is unlikely in the near term, Wu Zunyou, chief epidemiologist at the China Center for Disease Control and Prevention, said on the Weibo social media platform, according to Reuters.

Hundreds of millions of Chinese are traveling across the country for holiday reunions that had been suspended under recently eased COVID curbs, raising fears of fresh outbreaks in rural areas less equipped to manage large outbreaks.

To ease widespread if groundless fears which had been mercilessly stoked by Beijing for the past three years, a National Health Commission official also addressed the nation on Thursday saying that China has passed the peak of COVID patients in fever clinics, emergency rooms and with critical conditions.

According to "government data", which in China means propaganda, nearly 60,000 people with COVID had died in hospital as of Jan. 12, roughly a month after China abruptly dismantled its zero-COVID policy. But some experts said that figure probably vastly undercounts the full impact, as it excludes those who die at home, and because many doctors have said they are discouraged from citing COVID as a cause of death.

While over a billion Chinese having survived covid is good news, it's terrible news for those pharma companies that held the world hostage for the past three years: after all, just how will Pfizer and Moderna be able to afford more yachts if they can't sell their constantly changing, taxpayer-funded mRNA cocktail to the world's (now 2nd) largest population. As for the world's most populous country, India, it knew what was up more than a year ago when in Sept 2021 its government said it would not buy any shots from Pfizer and Moderna, thus depriving its population of countless complications from myocarditis and pericarditis.

stats, markets: Mexican nationals are sending nearly $60 billion a year in remittances from the United States to Mexico to aid friends and families who do not find enough succor from their government in Mexico City

American overdoses due to fentanyl and other opioids are nearing 100,000 deaths per year.

Since Biden took office in January 2021, America has allowed some 5-6 million illegal entries across its southern border.

"Just imagine: There are 40 million Mexicans in the United States - 40 million who were born here in Mexico, (or) who are the children of people who were born in Mexico!"

China, war: China's Northernmost City Sees Lowest Temperatures Ever Recorded

China's "North Pole" recorded its lowest temperature since records began.

The Chinese city of Mohe dropped to minus 53 degrees Celsius Sunday, according to China Daily, citing data from the country's local weather bureau.

The frigid temperatures broke a previous record of minus 52.3 degrees Celsius. Temperatures have been below minus 50 degrees Celsius for three consequence days.

"As a new round of extreme cold hit Heilongjiang, a number of areas in the Greater Khingan Range have recorded their coldest ever temperatures," China Daily said.

Earlier this month, we pointed out a cold air mass swirling in the Arctic was shattering records. The rural northern Siberian town of Zhilinda recorded temperatures of minus 62.1 degrees Celsius.

Arcfield Weather's Paul Dorian explained recently that winter isn't over and called for a significant change in North American weather.

On Monday, the weather blog Severe Weather Europe outlined:

The Polar Vortex is starting to weaken as a strong Stratospheric Warming event is about to unfold. As the forecast indicates, the Polar Vortex will be heavily deformed but will not fully collapse. These important events can have a significant impact on the rest of winter in the United States, Canada, and Europe.

Some meteorologists continue to tweet long-term weather models that suggest a polar vortex could result in colder weather for the US and Europe at the end of the month or early February.

Markets, stats, war: Netherlands To Shut Down Europe's Largest Gas Field

Production from Groningen has been curtailed substantially, and there were plans in place to phase out production altogether because of increased seismic activity in the vicinity of the field even before the energy crisis began in 2021.

“It’s very, very simple: everybody who has some knowledge of earthquake danger tells me that it’s really very dangerous to keep on producing there. I’m quite convinced it’s wise to close it down,” Vijbrief told the FT.

War: jan24 German Intelligence "Alarmed" Ukraine Losing Hundreds Of Soldiers Every Day

War, history: soros predicted nato would use eastern countries as fighters in 1993 in a piece that he titled, "The New World Order"

In the piece, he outlines how Eastern Europeans could be used as the “manpower” in coming conflicts in an effort to reduce the number of deaths in Western countries, which Soros argues the West would not politically tolerate, unlike the east of Europe.

“The United States would not be called upon to act as the policeman of the world. When it acts, it would act in conjunction with others. Incidentally, the combination of manpower from Eastern Europe with the technical capabilities of NATO would greatly enhance the military potential of the Partnership because it would reduce the risk of body bags for NATO countries, which is the main constraint on their willingness to act. This is a viable alternative to the looming world disorder,” wrote Soros in the article.

Soros acknowledges that the NATO countries have no appetite for “body bags,” but his statement implicitly indicates that Eastern Europeans can fill this role.

What Soros described appears to be unfolding exactly as he predicted regarding the war in Ukraine. Armed with high-end NATO weapons, Ukrainian soldiers are actively countering Russia, which Soros had already feared would become a nationalist nation opposed to the global order he was promoting in 1993. The powerful Western countries have the necessary weapons, and Ukraine has the manpower. Given that Soros already saw the potential of what this symbiotic match could produce on the battlefield decades in advance will likely bolster his reputation as a calculating — and perhaps ruthless — strategic thinker.

As Soros predicted, Ukrainian society appears to be tolerating the high death toll in its current conflict with Russia. During the Vietnam War, the U.S. lost 58,220 over the course of approximately 10 years, and yet, the war saw strong opposition from the American public. Despite a far higher death toll in a far shorter period of time, Ukrainian society has seen little in terms of protests.

The lack of protest in Ukraine may also be helped by the fact that Ukraine has suspended most of civil society, banned opposition parties and media, and even outlawed the Russian Orthodox Church. Another key factor in society's perspective on the conflict is that the war is taking place on Ukrainian soil, which is a highly motivating factor for Ukrainian soldiers.

All those Ukrainian bodies, of course, have come with a major price tag for Russia, with the country's cemeteries also filling up as quickly or even more so. Exact figures on casualties for either side remain unofficial and are likely inexact, but the war is costing both nations dearly in terms of life.

In the same article, Soros called for a "new world order." The term is often derided in establishment media as a conspiracy theory, but Soros openly uses it. In addition, in the piece, the new world order he calls for is remarkably globalist and centralized. In other words, exactly the type of new world order critics of his, such as Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán, have been warning about for over a decade.

"Therefore, the only basis for action is collective security. And that is where the problem lies. The collapse of the Soviet empire has created a collective security problem of the utmost gravity. Without a new world order, there will be disorder; that much is clear. But who will act as the world's policeman? That is the question that needs to be answered," *Soros wrote.*

Soros outlines a number of his theories in the piece, referring to open and closed societies as well as the "theory of revolutionary change," which he said he had also applied to financial markets. The billionaire describes how the dissolution of the Soviet Union presented new global security challenges but also opportunities.

The original mission was to defend the free world against the Soviet empire. That mission is obsolete; but the collapse of the Soviet empire has left a security vacuum which has the potential of turning into a "black hole." This presents a different kind of threat than the Soviet empire did. There is no direct threat from the region to the NATO countries; the danger is within the region, and it concerns conditions within states as much as relationships between states. Therefore, if NATO has any mission at all, it is to project its power and influence into the region, and the mission is best defined in terms of open and closed societies.

Closed societies based on nationalist principles constitute a threat to security because they need an enemy, either outside or within. But the threat is very different in character from the one NATO was constructed to confront, and a very different approach is required to combat this threat. It involves the building of democratic states and open societies and embedding them in a structure which precludes certain kinds of behavior.

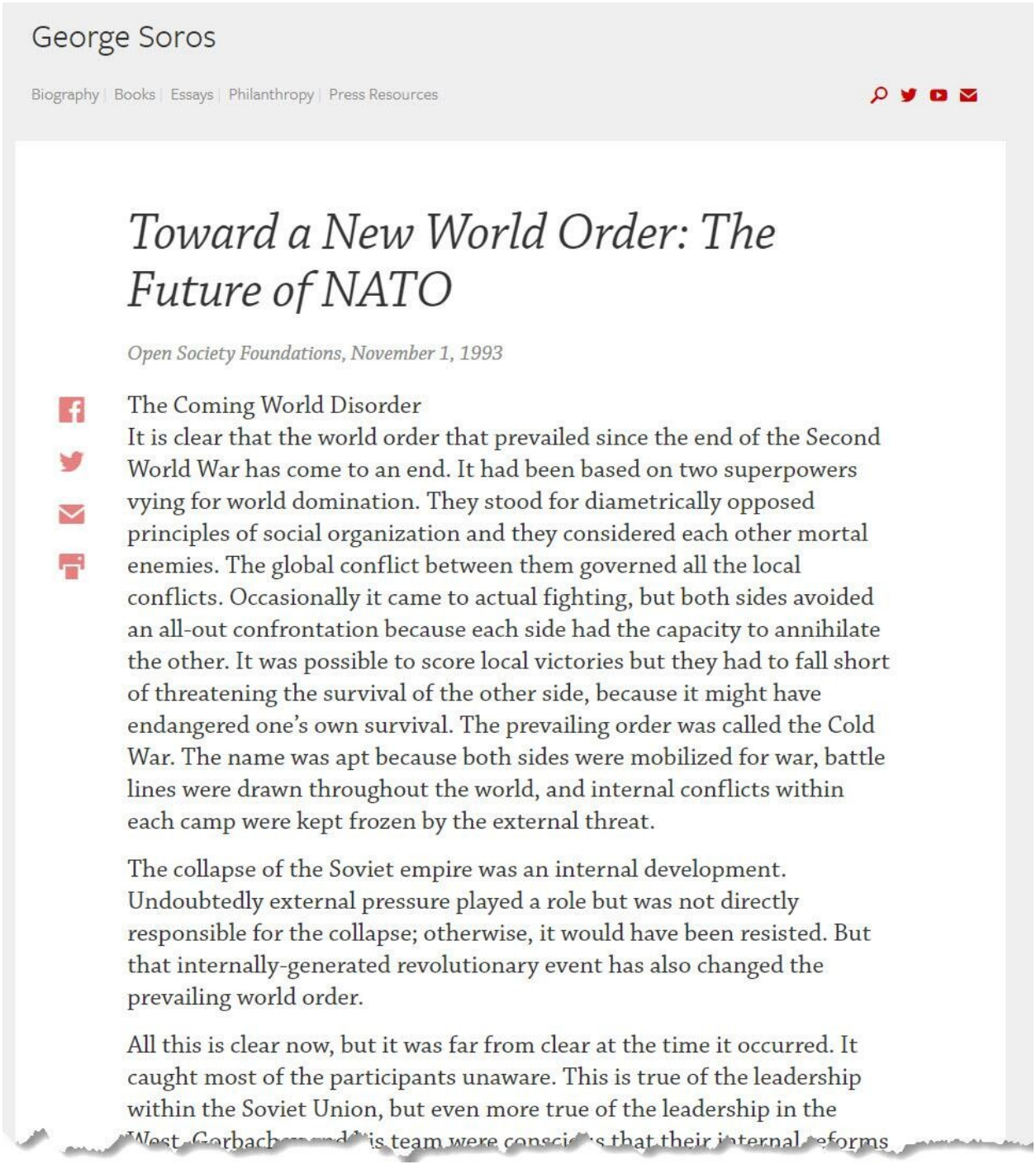
Soros also writes in his piece that NATO was racing to grant membership to countries in Central and Eastern Europe before “Russia recovers.” **Soros appears to see NATO as actively transgressing against Russia during a time the country was still in chaos following the fall of communism.**

“The countries of Central Europe are clamoring for full membership of NATO as soon as possible, preferably before Russia recovers. Russia objects, not because it harbors any designs on its former empire but because it sees no advantage in consenting. Its national pride has been hurt and it is sick and tired of making concessions without corresponding benefits,” writes Soros.

The billionaire activist also makes a number of other proposals in the piece, including offering NATO membership to Japan, his goal being the creation of a “new world order.”

“**Japan should be asked to join NATO.** Then we would have the beginnings of an architecture for a new world order. It is based on the United States as the remaining superpower and on open society as the organizing principle. It consists of a series of alliances, the most important of which is NATO and, **through NATO, the Partnership for Peace which girds the Northern Hemisphere,”** he writes.

History, war: **nice account of the geopolitical condition existing 2 years after the cold war written by the man himself,. George Soros, 1993**



George Soros

Biography | Books | Essays | Philanthropy | Press Resources

Toward a New World Order: The Future of NATO

Open Society Foundations, November 1, 1993

The Coming World Disorder

It is clear that the world order that prevailed since the end of the Second World War has come to an end. It had been based on two superpowers vying for world domination. They stood for diametrically opposed principles of social organization and they considered each other mortal enemies. The global conflict between them governed all the local conflicts. Occasionally it came to actual fighting, but both sides avoided an all-out confrontation because each side had the capacity to annihilate the other. It was possible to score local victories but they had to fall short of threatening the survival of the other side, because it might have endangered one's own survival. The prevailing order was called the Cold War. The name was apt because both sides were mobilized for war, battle lines were drawn throughout the world, and internal conflicts within each camp were kept frozen by the external threat.

The collapse of the Soviet empire was an internal development. Undoubtedly external pressure played a role but was not directly responsible for the collapse; otherwise, it would have been resisted. But that internally-generated revolutionary event has also changed the prevailing world order.

All this is clear now, but it was far from clear at the time it occurred. It caught most of the participants unaware. This is true of the leadership within the Soviet Union, but even more true of the leadership in the West. Gorbachev and his team were conscious that their internal reforms

War, markets: **Only 8.5 percent of all EU and G7 companies have actually left Russia, according to research from the University of St. Gallen and the IMD business school in Lausanne, Switzerland.**

Before the outbreak of war, there were more than 2,400 company branches and 1,400 companies from the EU and G7 operating in Russia. By the end of November last year, **only 120 companies had left Russia or sold their company there.**

The research indicates that **the news of a mass exodus of Western firms from Russia has been largely exaggerated.**

In fact, businesses have resisted calls from governments, media, and civil society, according to the Belgian daily newspaper Het Laatste Nieuws.

Companies remain skeptical and reluctant about leaving Russia over fears of losing their business and staff.

Those who have left have ended up transferring assets into Russian hands, even for a single symbolic ruble or euro, as was the case with Renault and Nissan.

According to Forbes, the biggest beneficiary was oligarch Wladimir Potanin, whose Interros company bought Rosbank from Societe Generale, making nearly 50 billion rubles (€667 million) in the process.

The second-biggest earner was Vladyslav Sviblov, whose Highland Gold Mining bought the assets of Canada's Kinross corporation, which netted him almost 40 billion rubles.

Not far behind was Ivan Tirishkin from SPB, who bought 49.5 percent of the shares in HKF-Bank LLC, making over 35 billion rubles.

Fourth on the list was the state research center FSUE NAMI, which took over the plants owned by Renault and Nissan, gaining assets worth just under 35 billion rubles.

War: jan24 **US Bristles As South African Ally To Host Joint Naval Drills With Russia, China**

War, china: **US Confronts China Over State-Owned Companies Supplying Russian Military**

Biden admin probes whether it goes beyond non-lethal aid, raising issue with Chinese officials...

war: **US Military Says 30 Al-Shabaab Killed in Somalia Airstrike: "US Africom Command said it launched an airstrike in Somalia on Friday against al-Shabaab in support of the US-backed Mogadishu-based government." Jan23**

war: **important, read more: Al-Tanf (U.S. military base)**

Al-Tanf (Arabic: التَّنْف, romanized: *al-Tanf*), also known as the **Al-Tanf garrison** (**ATG**),[2] is a United States military base within territory controlled by the Syrian opposition in Homs Governorate, Syria. It is located 24 km (15 mi) west of the al-Tanf border crossing in the Syrian Desert. The surrounding deconfliction zone is located along the Iraq and Jordan–Syria border. The garrison is located along a critical road known as the M2 Baghdad–Damascus Highway.

A significant United States Armed Forces presence at the outpost began in early 2016 during the American-led intervention in the Syrian Civil War in order to train anti-Islamic State fighters of the New Syrian Army rebel group, which was dissolved and reemerged as the Revolutionary Commando Army (Maghawir al-Thawra) in December 2016. As of 2023, the al-Tanf base continues to serve as the headquarters for the Revolutionary Commando Army and a contingent of at least 200 U.S. soldiers operating on behalf of the CJTF-OIR Coalition.

The government of Syria[3][4] deems the U.S. military presence in al-Tanf illegal and "considers the presence of Turkish and US troops on its territory as an aggression and demands immediate and unconditional withdrawal of foreign forces from its territory."[5] The Iranian[6] and Russian governments[7] have publicly supported the Syrian government's position and have regularly criticized the American presence in southeastern Syria whereas the United States government states that its presence at al-Tanf is legal. The U.S. has called the al-Tanf base a counter to the Russia–Syria–Iran coalition's residual influence in the area.[8]

The Rukban refugee camp for internally displaced Syrians is located within the deconfliction zone.

War, censorship, lavant: **Moshe Ya’alon, former defense minister and former Israel Defense Forces chief of staff: “A country where the prime minister appoints all the judges and is responsible for promoting and firing them has a name. It’s called a dictatorship. When this prime minster is also a defendant whom the State of Israel is accusing of serious crimes, it has a name. It’s called a dictatorship of criminals.”**

Referring to Justice Minister Yariv Levin’s plan to weaken the judiciary, Ya’alon said, “This is legislation with a black flag flying over it,” adding, “Legislation that turns Israel into a dictatorship where a criminal defendant appoints judges is patently illegal legislation.”

Ya’alon continued, “The Jewish people paid a heavy price for the fact that in democratic elections in Germany a government came to power that eliminated democracy, and the first thing that it eliminated was the basic democratic principle of the independence of the judicial branch.”
Former justice minister and former Netanyahu ally Gideon Sa’ar spoke at the demonstration in Haifa. “In the fight against corruption there is no right or left,” Sa’ar said. “Mr. Prime Minister, you are not above the law. Uphold the High Court’s ruling, fire Dery,” he added, referring to Arye Dery, who the top court ruled last week could not serve in Netanyahu’s government due to a recent criminal conviction.

War, middle east:

Referring to Justice Minister Yariv Levin’s plan to weaken the judiciary, Ya’alon said, “This is legislation with a black flag flying over it,” adding, “Legislation that turns Israel into a dictatorship where a criminal defendant appoints judges is patently illegal legislation.”

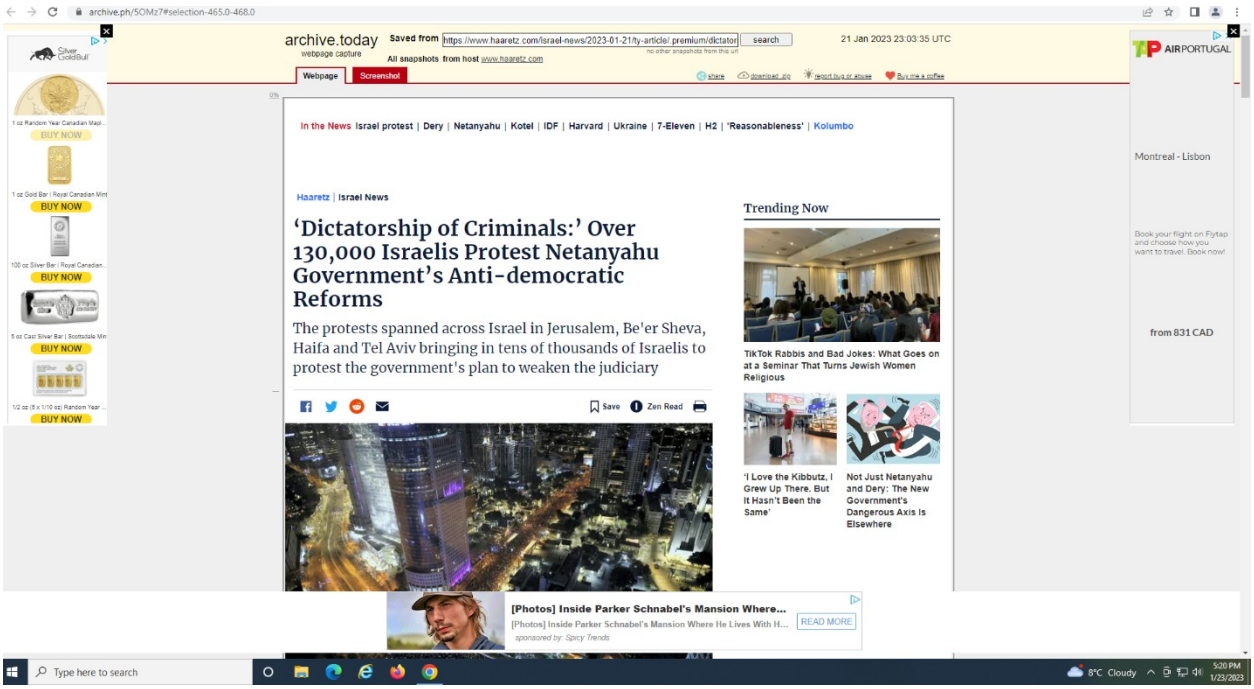
Ya’alon continued, **Saudi Arabia won’t normalise Israel ties until Palestinian statehood: "Kingdom's foreign minister affirms position at Davos after Netanyahu spoke of bringing Riyadh into 'circle of peace'"**

Israel and Saudi Arabia do not have official diplomatic relations, but Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman met secretly with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in the kingdom in 2020, according to several Israeli media reports at the time.

“True normalisation and true stability will only come through giving the Palestinians hope. Through giving the Palestinians dignity, and that requires giving the Palestinians a state,” said Saudi Foreign Minister Faisal bin Farhan Al-Saud, speaking to Bloomberg on the sidelines of the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland.

A short video of the comments, in which the minister speaks English, was shared on the Saudi foreign ministry’s official Twitter account.

Censorship, journal: **archive.is has now added ads to both sides. If I remember correctly, the ads started with just one at the bottom of the page. This makes me think that the service is going to get shutdown at some point. It’s literally profiting off of every page on the internet, even through bypassing paywalls to expensive subscription content.**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In the News Israel protest | Dery | Netanyahu | Kotel | IDF | Harvard | Ukraine | 7-Eleven | H2 | 'Reasonableness' | Kolumbo
Haaretz | Israel News
‘Dictatorship of Criminals:’ Over 130,000 Israelis Protest Netanyahu Government’s Anti-democratic Reforms
The protests spanned across Israel in Jerusalem, Be'er Sheva, Haifa and Tel Aviv bringing in tens of thousands of Israelis to protest the government's plan to weaken the judiciary
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TikTok Rabbis and Bad Jokes: What Goes on at a Seminar That Turns Jewish Women Religious
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War, Erdogan: **Erdogan Tells Sweden: Don't Expect To Join NATO After Quran Burning Incident.."No individual has freedom to insult the faith of Muslims..." jan23**

Markets, war: **Brazil, Argentina Holding Talks Over Possible Common Currency, jan23**

Media, policy: **Liberal Elites Lose It Over Proposed Nantucket Low-Income Housing Project jan23**

Liberal elites spend their summers on Nantucket, an isolated island off Cape Cod, Massachusetts. Many year-round residents live in homes worth millions of dollars and are furious about the plans to build an affordable housing complex on the island.

Surfside Crossing is planning to build 156 homes on a 13-acre affordable housing development has sparked a flurry of lawsuits and protests. A record amount of residents have turned out at hearings to object to the low-income housing development amid the worst affordability crisis for homeownership ever.

Residents claim the new housing development "will damage the environment and strain resources, and that the developers are using the subsidized housing angle to skirt zoning restrictions," according to The Daily Beast.

Meanwhile, the developers say most elite residents are just furious that a low-income housing project will be in their own multi-million backyard.

On an island where some homes are listed for sale between $30 and +$50 million, and the median listing home prices are above $3 million -- it should make sense why residents don't want these affordable homes priced between $261,000 and $373,000.

Tucker Holland, the town's housing director, said it was "the biggest controversy that I can recall in recent years."

Meghan Perry, a year-round resident and opponent of the low-income housing project, said:

"I think the developers underestimated our community."

However, the rich liberals don't want the working poor in their backyards. These workers clean their [rich people] pools, mow their grass, police their neighborhoods, and serve them food -- are forced to live off the island and commute to work because of affordability housing woes.

Residents, such as Perry, claim the low-income development isn't a case of NIMBY-ism but instead about protecting the environment.

She added: "It's going to weaken our infrastructure, it's going to put our first responders at risk, it's going to put the community at risk."

The Daily Beast said residents are slamming the low-income development with lawsuits at every avenue they can get:

The Housing Appeals Committee gave Surfside Crossing its final seal of approval in September 2022, but the fight didn't stop there. Less than a month later, the developers were hit with three lawsuits challenging the decision, including a filing from the nonprofit Nantucket Land Council that claimed the construction would threaten its work on behalf of public lands.

And about a 1.5-hour ferry ride away is another liberal enclave of elites in Martha's Vineyard -- where National Guard units were called in last fall to transport dozens of migrants out of the town.

A pattern is emerging of NIMBY-ism in elite liberal New England towns. These are examples of hypocrisy at its finest.

War: **Poland's deputy foreign minister:"Germany will be completely isolated if it does not give in and hand over the tanks," ;Polish Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki on Monday confirmed that his country is about to seek formal permission from the German government to send Leopard main battle tanks to Ukraine jan23**

Poland Seeking Permission To Send Ukraine Leopard Tanks While Warning Germany Faces "Isolation"

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov on Monday mocked the clear "anxiety" and "legal balancing act" on display

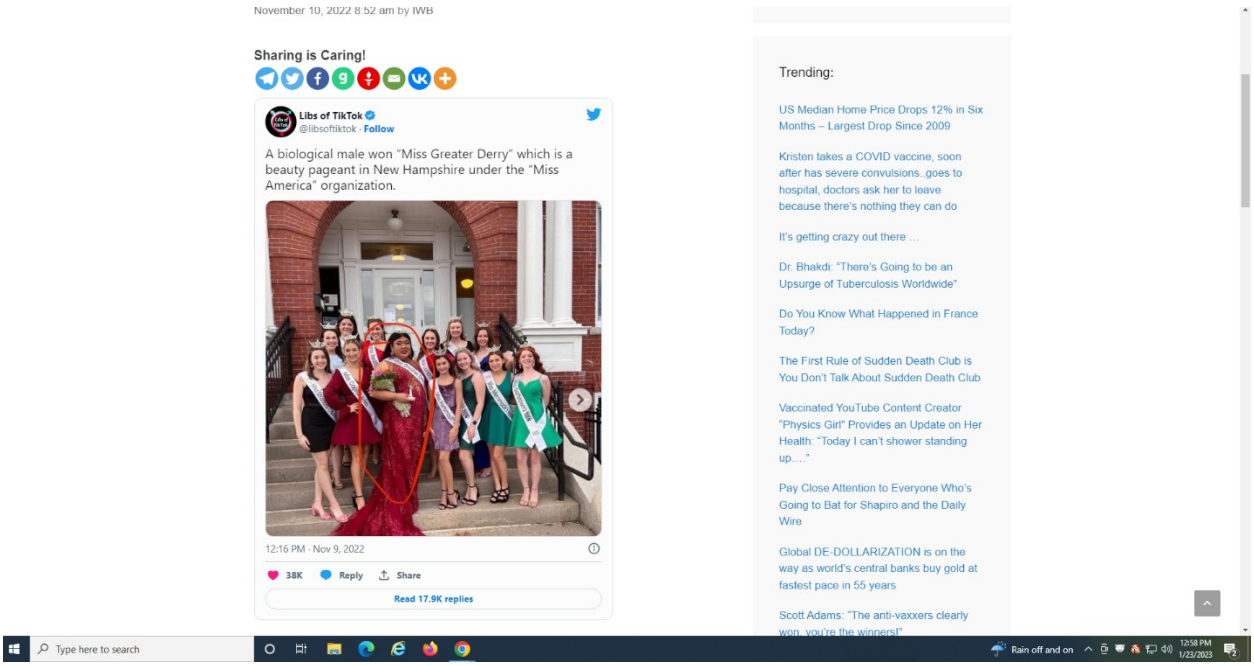
"This whole legal balancing act that we see now, and the exchange of statements between European capital cities... European capitals, including Warsaw, are now threatening Berlin with international exclusion and much more," he said. "All this suggests that anxiety among the members of the alliance is increasing all the time, keeps growing. But here, of course, all the countries that are directly or indirectly involved in pumping weapons and in raising the technological sophistication of Ukraine, they are all responsible for this in one way or another," the Kremlin spokesman added, according to TASS.

The Kremlin later in the day added...

POLAND MUST ENSURE CHANCELLOR BACKS GERMAN FOREIGN MINISTRY BEFORE EXPORTING LEOPARD TANKS TO UKRAINE -TASS QUOTES PUTIN SPOKESMAN

War: **Top FBI 'Russiagate' Official Arrested For Colluding With Russian Oligarch: DOJ jan23**

Censorship, sick, stats, journal: literal definition of an abomination wins beauty pageant as virtue signaling LQBTQ trend infects every faucet of society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A biological male won "Miss Greater Derry" which is a beauty pageant in New Hampshire under the "Miss America" organization.
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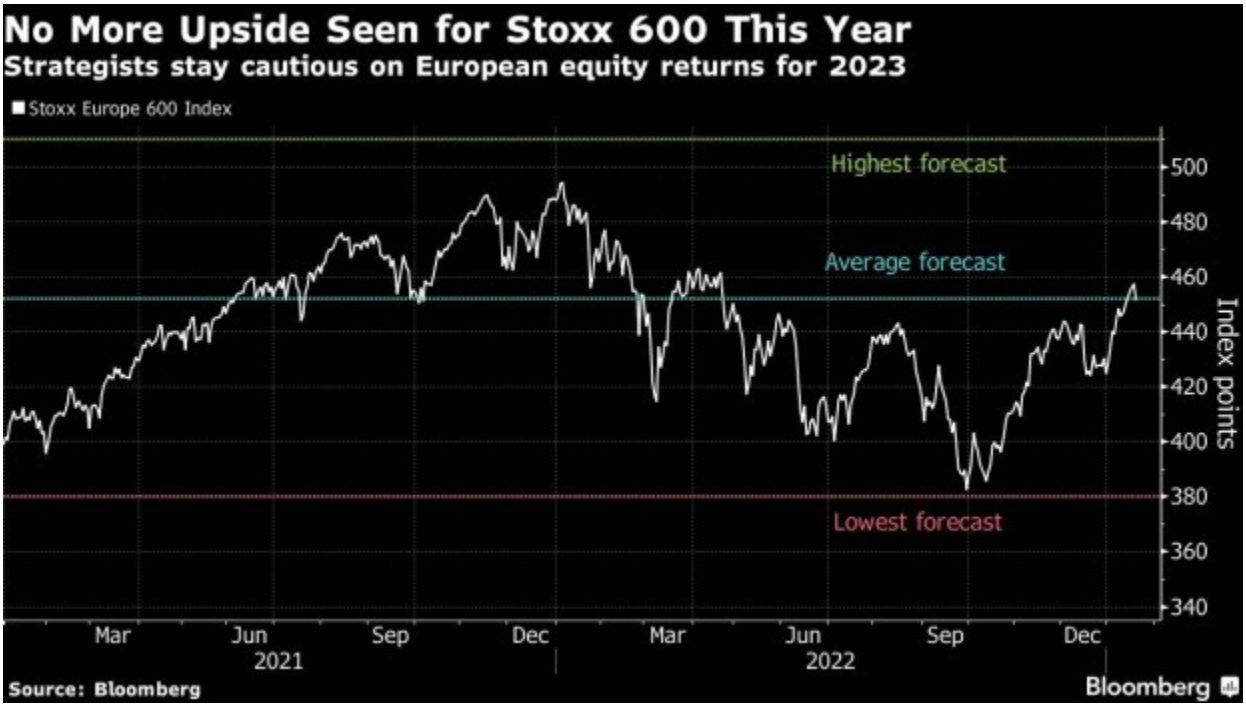
US Median Home Price Drops 12% in Six Months – Largest Drop Since 2009
Kristen takes a COVID vaccine, soon after has severe convulsions..goes to hospital, doctors ask her to leave because there's nothing they can do
It's getting crazy out there ...
Dr. Bhakdi: "There's Going to be an Upsurge of Tuberculosis Worldwide"
Do You Know What Happened in France Today?
The First Rule of Sudden Death Club is You Don't Talk About Sudden Death Club
Vaccinated YouTube Content Creator "Physics Girl" Provides an Update on Her Health: "Today I can't shower standing up...."
Pay Close Attention to Everyone Who's Going to Bat for Shapiro and the Daily Wire
Global DE-DOLLARIZATION is on the way as world's central banks buy gold at fastest pace in 55 years
Scott Adams: "The anti-vaxxers clearly won, you're the winners!"
Type here to search
Rain off and on
12:58 PM
1/23/2023

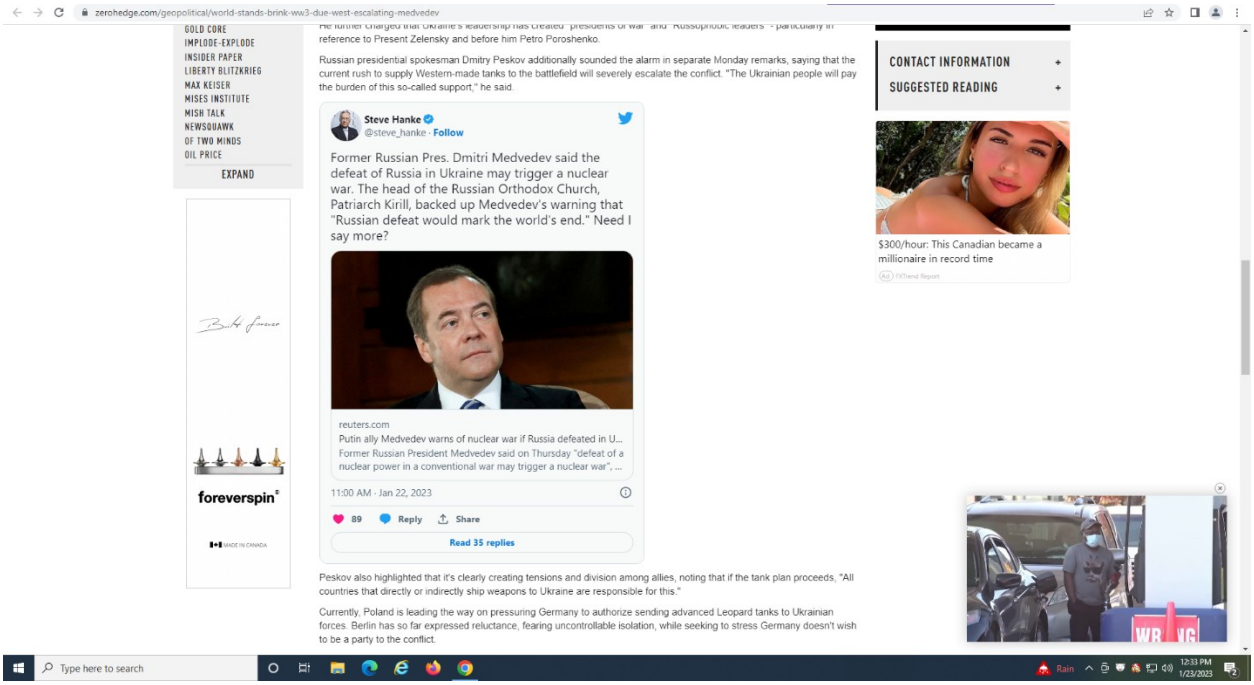
Markets: **The Retail Exodus Continues: Nike's Flagship Store Closes In Seattle After 26 Years jan23**

Markets: **missed this: european market start with best open ever due to cancelled putin's winter, china reopening early, and also slowed inflation, but that's still yet to be settled, as we still don't know the full impact of slowing inflation yet. Yes, inflation is slowing, but it's still sustained record levels for a long time.jan23**



War: jan23 **World On Brink Of WW3 Due To West Escalating, Medvedev Warns; "The world has come close to the threat of World War III due to impending US aggression against the Russian Federation," Medvedev said in comments first reported by Sky News Arabia; "There are no conditions for negotiations between Russia and Ukraine now, either de facto or de jure," Medvedev said.**

Days after he warned NATO of the likelihood of nuclear war if Russia is defeated in Ukraine, former Russian president and current deputy chairman of the security council Dmitry Medvedev on Monday said the world stands **on the brink of World War III due to US and Western aggression against Russia**.


zerohedge.com/geopolitical/world-stands-brink-ww3-due-west-escalating-medvedev
GOLD CORE
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MAX KEISER
MISES INSTITUTE
MISH TALK
NEWSQUAWK
OF TWO MINDS
OIL PRICE
EXPAND
reference to Present Zelensky and before him Petro Poroshenko.
Russian presidential spokesman Dmitry Peskov additionally sounded the alarm in separate Monday remarks, saying that the current rush to supply Western-made tanks to the battlefield will severely escalate the conflict. "The Ukrainian people will pay the burden of this so-called support," he said.
Steve Hanke
@steve_hanke · Follow
Former Russian Pres. Dmitri Medvedev said the defeat of Russia in Ukraine may trigger a nuclear war. The head of the Russian Orthodox Church, Patriarch Kirill, backed up Medvedev's warning that "Russian defeat would mark the world's end." Need I say more?
reuters.com
Putin ally Medvedev warns of nuclear war if Russia defeated in U...
Former Russian President Medvedev said on Thursday "defeat of a nuclear power in a conventional war may trigger a nuclear war", ...
11:00 AM · Jan 22, 2023
89
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Peskov also highlighted that it's clearly creating tensions and division among allies, noting that if the tank plan proceeds, "All countries that directly or indirectly ship weapons to Ukraine are responsible for this."
Currently, Poland is leading the way on pressuring Germany to authorize sending advanced Leopard tanks to Ukrainian forces. Berlin has so far expressed reluctance, fearing uncontrollable isolation, while seeking to stress Germany doesn't wish to be a party to the conflict.
CONTACT INFORMATION
SUGGESTED READING
$300/hour: This Canadian became a millionaire in record time
foreverspin
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Rain
12:33 PM
1/23/2023

Markets, crypto: **Cashless Society: Big Banks Prepare To Launch Digital Wallet To Compete With Apple Pay And PayPal jan23**

Instead, the new digital wallet is to be run by Early Warning Services (EWS), which is firm owned by banks and currently operates the Zelle

EWS says the as-yet unnamed new wallet will be separate from Zelle.

Unnamed sources say that the new wallet is also intended to compete with PayPal. It is being built in order to prevent banks ceding customer relationships to big tech, like Apple.

It's also a move to cut down on fraud, which Zelle has reportedly been prone to. A plan to extend Zelle into online purchases was cancelled over fraud and disputed transactions.

It's also a move to cut down on fraud, which Zelle has reportedly been prone to. A plan to extend Zelle into online purchases was cancelled over fraud and disputed transactions.

Recall the pivot toward a cashless society was clear as day. Perhaps the coin shortage during the pandemic was a test run. And anyone who dared mention a looming cashless society was deemed a 'conspiracy theorist.'

Just remember who is also shaping the world and influencing politicians and corporations away from a cash economy:

The dystopic view is that a cashless society could mean governments and corporations will have even more control over our wallets -- and that's frightening.

Markets: **Deutsche Bank To Cut Investment Banking Bonuses By 40% jan23**

Health, vaccine: **'Dilbert' Creator Scott Adams Admits Vax Critics Were Right, Still Doesn't Get Why jan23**

Censorship, media: **Musk's Father: "I'm Really Afraid Something Might Happen To Elon" jan23**

War: jan23 **just saving the whole page today. so much going on. we've reached a crescendo. too obvious ukraine be being used as a pawn. i saw ukrainian woman in bus terminal last night crying openly on the pphone. dont usually see peop[le crying on the phone.**

News

Updated January 23, 2023 - 1:54 AM EST

Germany: Ukraine Losing 100s of Soldiers

Daily

Pressure Mounts on Germany to Disclose Nord Stream Findings

US Extends 101st Deployment in SE Romania

Nations Push to Break German Stalemate Over Tanks to Ukraine

Russia Official: Western Support for Ukraine Could Bring 'Catastrophe'

130,000 Israelis Protest Govt's Anti-Democratic Reforms

Netanyahu Removes Senior Minister Deri After Supreme Court Ruling

Saudi Arabia Won't Normalize Israel Ties Until Palestinian Statehood

US Military Says 30 Al-Shabaab Killed in Somalia Airstrike

Multiple Drone Attack Hits US Base in Southern Syria

Britain's Former PM Boris Johnson Visits Kyiv, Pledges Help

Germany and France Vow Support for Ukraine, Including Military

AWOL Navy SEAL Killed Fighting in Ukraine

Russia Increases Shelling in Regions Outside Ukraine's Donbas: Official

Russia Claims More Progress in Ukraine's Zaporizhzhia Region

US Requests Forces in South Korea Provide Equipment to Ukraine

Donated Sea King Helicopter Makes Debut Near Black Sea

Tanks for Ukraine?

Poland Ready to Build 'Smaller Coalition' to Send Tanks to Ukraine Without Germany

Germany Would Not Block Poland From Sending Tanks to Ukraine: German Minister

Latvia, Estonia, Lithuania Urge Germany to Send Tanks to Ukraine

American Lawmakers Urge US to Ship Abrams Tanks to Ukraine

Macron 'Does Not Rule Out'

- Sending Leclerc Battle Tanks to Ukraine
- UK Says It Still Wants Ukraine to Get German-Made Tanks

Russia

- Kremlin Stays Silent on Missile Systems Seen on Moscow Rooftops
- US Targets Russian Private Military Group Wagner for Sanctions for Fighting in Ukraine
- Russia's Lukoil Keeps on Pumping in Europe – for Now

France

- Macron Raises France's Military Budget 40%
- France, Germany Renew Alliance Strained Amid War in Ukraine
- RT France to Shut Down After Accounts Frozen

Spain

- Barcelona to Vote on Severing Ties With Tel Aviv Over 'Israeli Apartheid'
- Spain Says Germany to Join Hydrogen Pipeline Project

Europe

- Tensions High Over Isolated Nagorno-Karabakh Region
- Italy's Meloni Eyes Boost in Strong Energy Ties With Algeria
- Slovakia's Former Coalition Heads Agree to Early Parliamentary Elections

Afghanistan

- Blinken Says US Has Not Seen Upsurge in Terrorism in Afghanistan
- Russian Envoy Says US 'Secretly Supports' Armed Groups in Afghanistan
- UN Envoy Says 'Progress' Made on Afghan Women's Rights

Pakistan

- Zardari: Pakistan 'Not Interested' in Cross-Border Operation in Afghanistan

- Pakistan Will Purchase Russian Oil Despite Western Threats of Sanctions

Asia

- China's Biggest Oil Trading Firm Goes on a Buying Spree
- First North Korean National Ever Extradited to US Sentenced for Money Laundering
- Turkmenistan's President Appoints His Father to Powerful Post

Burkina Faso

- Burkina Faso Demands Departure of French Troops
- Macron Wants Burkina Faso 'Clarifications' on Call for French Troops to Leave
- Kidnapped Women and Children Freed in Burkina Faso

Egypt

- Egypt Meat Prices Skyrocket 25% as Inflation Surges
- Egyptian Pound Added to Russian Exchange Rate List in Bid to Facilitate Trade

Tunisia

- Opposition Party Leader Rejects Foreign Intervention in Tunisia Crisis
- Tunisia Man Sets Himself Alight Over Living Conditions

Africa

- US Ambassador Heading to Africa as Part of Biden's Big Push
- Arab States Boycott Regional Meeting Hosted in Libya
- Gunmen Kill Eswatini Opposition Politician
- Prominent Cameroon Journalist Found Dead After Abduction
- US Hails 'Withdrawal' of Eritrean Troops Seen Leaving Ethiopia's Tigray Region
- At least Five Killed in Bomb, Gun Attack in Mogadishu

Iran

- Thousands Protest in Brussels Demanding Release of Belgian Aid Worker in Iran
- Canada Barring Entry to IRGC Members in New Iran Sanctions Push
- Iran's Currency Hits Record Low Amid Tensions With the West
- Iran's Unrest Triggers Explosion of Fake News
- Iran Condemns EU Vote Over 'Terrorist' Designation for IRGC

Turkey

- Muslims Protest in Turkey Over Quran-Burning in Sweden
- Turkey, UK Discuss Major Weapons Deal
- Turkey Cancels Swedish Defense Minister's Visit Over Decision to Allow Protests
- Turkish Elections to Be Held on May 14: Erdogan

Iraq

- Iraq Daily Roundup: 11 Killed
- Iraqi Police Raid Exchange Companies to Regulate Market Rates
- Iraq's Sudani Issues Several Decisions to Stabilize Dinar Value
- US Dollar-Smuggling Crackdown Leaves Baghdad Struggling to Pay Wages
- Iraq Urges 'Urgent' Probe After Five Citizens Shot and Killed While on Trip to Turkey

Syria

- Kurdish Delegation Leaves Damascus on 'Positive' Note
- US Military Says It Captured Two ISIS Members in Syria
- Syrian Democratic Forces Bombards Turkish Base as Opposition Infighting Escalates
- Saudi Goods Allowed in Syria After 11 Years of Trade Ban
- Canada to Repatriate 23 Citizens From US-Controlled Syrian Camp
- Mother of Detained Man Hails

- 'Rights Victory' as Canadians to Be Repatriated From Syria

Yemen

- UN Needs More Funds to Remove Oil Tanker Moored Off Yemen's Coast
- Explosion Kills Two Govt Soldiers in Yemen's Oil-Rich Shabwa

Middle East

- Kuwait Signs $370m Agreement With Turkey for Bayraktar Drones
- Lebanese Pound Crashes to 50,000 Against the Dollar

Peru

- Dozens Injured as Deadly Protests Continue in Peru
- Tourists Evacuated After Peru Closes Machu Picchu Amid Protests
- Peru's Prime Minister and Interior Minister Summoned to Appear in Court Over San Marcos Raid

Brazil

- Brazilian Defense Minister: Military Had No Direct Role in Riots
- Brazil's Lula Fires Army Chief in Wake of Pro-Bolsonaro Riots

The War at Home

- Watch: Belmarsh Tribunal on Assange Comes to Washington
- NYPD Use 9/11 Terror Law to Pursue a Suspect Overseas
- US Navy Won't Publicly Release Results of Amphibious Ship Study
- Three Sailors Injured After US Navy Vessel Strikes Barrier and Sinks

Oceania

- Chris Hipkins Confirmed as New Zealand's Next Prime Minister
- Australia Buys 'Potent and Powerful' Sea Mines to Deter China

War, erdogan: **Turkish Muslims protest Quran-burning in Sweden jan23**

Outrage over a Quran-burning protest in Sweden produced a second day of protests in Turkey, reflecting tensions between the two countries.

Some 250 people gathered outside the Swedish Consulate in Istanbul, where a photo of Danish anti-Islam activist Rasmus Paludan was set on fire. Paludan burned Islam's holy book outside the Turkish Embassy in Stockholm on Saturday, sparking protests in Istanbul and Ankara that night.

Participants in Sunday's event carried green flags featuring the Islamic proclamation of faith and banner that said "We condemn Sweden's state-supported Islamophobia." A sign on a window of the Swedish Consulate read, "We do not share that book-burning idiot's view."

The protests have renewed concerns about Turkey holding up Sweden and Finland's bid to join NATO. Turkey has not yet ratified the Nordic nations' memberships in the military alliance, saying Sweden needs to address Ankara's security concerns.

Turkish officials slammed Sweden for allowing the Quran-burning protest but President Recep Tayyip Erdogan did not comment on it during his weekend speeches.

Swedish Prime Minister Ulf Kristersson tweeted late Saturday that freedom of expression was crucial to democracy but added that "what is legal is not necessarily appropriate."

"BURNING BOOKS THAT ARE HOLY TO MANY IS A DEEPLY DISRESPECTFUL ACT. I WANT TO EXPRESS MY SYMPATHY FOR ALL MUSLIMS WHO ARE OFFENDED BY WHAT HAS HAPPENED IN STOCKHOLM TODAY," KRISTERSSON SAID.

MUSTAFA DEMIRCAN, ONE OF THE PEOPLE PROTESTING IN ISTANBUL ON SUNDAY, SAID THE ACT OF BURNING THE QURAN SHOULD NOT BE CONSIDERED AN ACT PROTECTED BY THE RIGHT OF FREE EXPRESSION.

PROTESTERS ALSO GATHERED OUTSIDE THE SWEDISH EMBASSY IN ANKARA FOR A SECOND DAY. IN SOUTHEASTERN SANLIURFA PROVINCE, MEN HELD THE QURAN HIGH AFTER PRAYERS IN A MOSQUE AND CHANTED "GOD IS GREAT" IN VIDEOS SHARED ONLINE. MORE PROTESTS WERE PLANNED FOR SUNDAY EVENING.

Rasmus Paludan, a Swedish-Danish politician who leads the right-wing Hard Line party, obtained permission to stage a demonstration outside the Turkish embassy in the Swedish capital, where he said he intended to "burn the Quran".

The protest went ahead as planned later on Saturday under heavy police protection, according to an AFP journalist.

Around 100 people - including a large number of journalists - gathered near the Turkish embassy in Stockholm.

Islamophobia levels in Europe a concern despite acquittal, Muslim academic warns
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Paludan set fire to the holy book with a lighter following a long diatribe of almost an hour in which he attacked Islam and immigration in Sweden.

"If you don't think there should be freedom of expression, you have to live somewhere else," he said.

Swedish Foreign Minister Tobias Billstrom said that Islamophobic provocations were appalling.

"Sweden has a far-reaching freedom of expression, but it does not imply that the Swedish government, or myself, support the opinions expressed," Billstrom said on Twitter.

Last year, violent riots broke out across Sweden after Paludan announced that he would go on a Quran-burning "tour" during the holy month of Ramadan.

Separately, another protest took place on Saturday outside Ankara's embassy in Stockholm against Sweden's efforts to join Nato.

"At this point, Swedish Defence Minister Pal Jonson's visit to Turkey on January 27 has lost its significance and meaning, so we cancelled the visit," his Turkish counterpart, Hulusi Akar, said on Saturday.

'It's a racist action'

A small pro-Turkish demonstration also took place on the other side of the embassy.

Turkey's Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu vented fury at Swedish authorities' failure to ban the protest.

"It's a racist action, it's not about freedom of expression," he said.

Muslim children disconsolate as Sweden forces Islamic schools to shut

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Turkey's foreign ministry summoned Sweden's ambassador on Friday over the protests.

Jonson said the visit had been postponed in a joint decision with Akar during a meeting in Ramstein, Germany, on Friday.

"Our relations with Turkey are very important to Sweden, and we look forward to continuing the dialogue on common security and defence issues at a later date," he said.

Turkish presidential spokesperson Ibrahim Kalin called the burning of the Quran "a clear crime of hatred".

"Allowing this action despite all our warnings is encouraging hate crimes and Islamophobia," he tweeted. "The attack on sacred values is not freedom but modern barbarism."

Several Arab countries including Saudi Arabia, Jordan and Kuwait denounced the Quran-burning.

> "Saudi Arabia calls for spreading the values of dialogue, tolerance, and coexistence, and rejects hatred and extremism," the Saudi Foreign Ministry said in a statement.

Tension amid Nato bid

> Jonson was invited to Ankara as Stockholm continues to work to overcome Turkey's objections to its bid to join Nato, which requires approval from all 30 member states.

> Sweden and Finland, which have long maintained neutrality and military non-alignment, sought to join the alliance following Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

> Turkey has stalled the two countries' requests over accusations that they are providing a safe haven to the outlawed Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) and other groups linked to them.

Last week, Swedish officials said they needed more time to codify laws that would satisfy Ankara's conditions.

The proposed amendments would empower the Swedish government to crack down on recruitment, financing and activities of "terrorist organisations" such as the PKK, which has waged decades long warfare against the Turkish government over Kurdish rights.

Turkey, the EU and the US have designated the PKK as a terror group due to its attacks against civilian targets.

Earlier this month, Ankara said it expected firm action after an incident in Stockholm in which an effigy of President Recep Tayyip Erdogan was strung up by its feet.

Swedish Prime Minister Ulf Kristersson told broadcaster TV4 that the act was "extremely serious" and he considered it a sabotage against the Nato application.

War: **As of January 2021, the estimated total population of the Republic of Crimea and Sevastopol was at 2,416,856; 68% Russian jan23**

One Year After Russia Annexed Crimea, Locals Prefer Moscow To Kiev

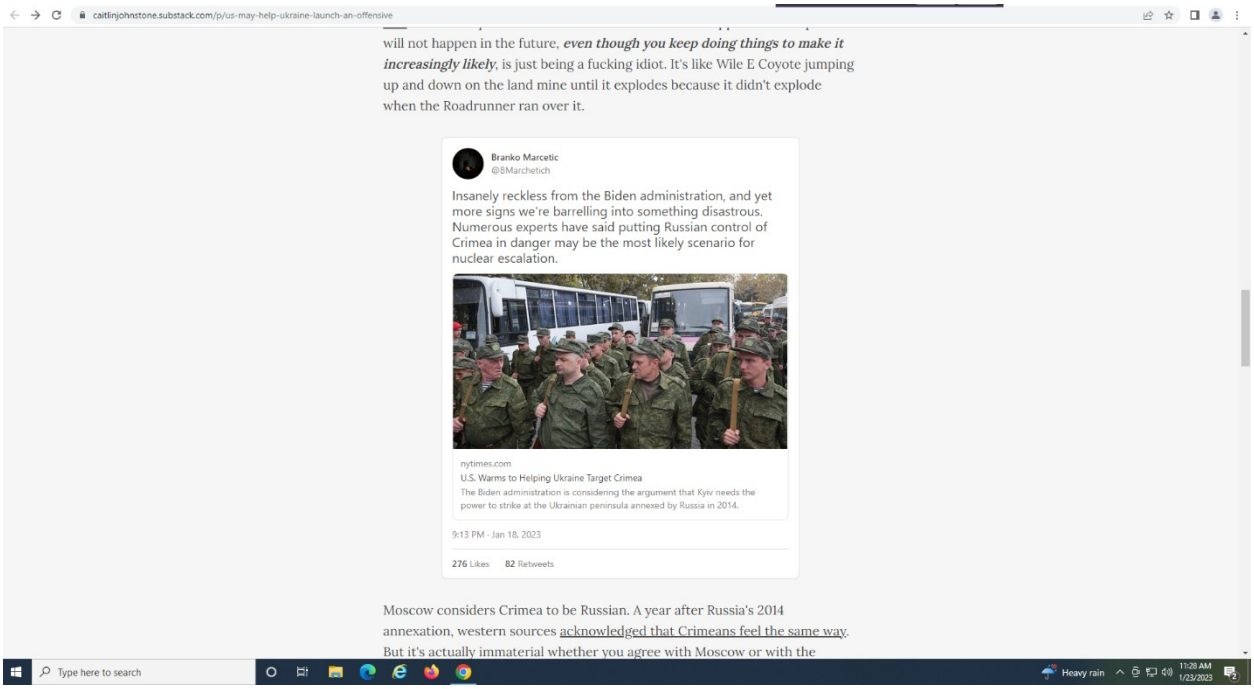
Little has changed over the last 12 months. Despite huge efforts on the part of Kiev, Brussels, Washington and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the bulk of humanity living on the Black Sea peninsula believe the referendum to secede from Ukraine was legit. At some point, the West will have to recognize Crimea's right to self rule. Unless we are all to believe that the locals polled by Gallup and GfK were done so with FSB bogey men standing by with guns in their hands.

This week, the State Department's press secretary Jen Psaki said sanctions on Russia will continue until Crimea is returned to Ukraine. Both the State Department and Treasury Department did not clarify whether that was an actual policy statement, nor whether that included the sectoral sanctions which were applied in

a third round of sanctions last July following the downing of Malaysian flight MH17 over east Ukraine.

A survey of residents of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea in May 2013 found that:[28]

- 58% Orthodox
- 15% Muslim
- 13% Do not know, or not applicable
- 10% believed in God but did not belong to any religion
- 2% Atheist
- 2% Other


caitlinjohnstone.substack.com/p/us-may-help-ukraine-launch-an-offensive
will not happen in the future, even though you keep doing things to make it increasingly likely, is just being a fucking idiot. It's like Wile E Coyote jumping up and down on the land mine until it explodes because it didn't explode when the Roadrunner ran over it.
Branko Marcetic
@BMarchetich
Insanely reckless from the Biden administration, and yet more signs we're barrelling into something disastrous. Numerous experts have said putting Russian control of Crimea in danger may be the most likely scenario for nuclear escalation.
nytimes.com
U.S. Warms to Helping Ukraine Target Crimea
The Biden administration is considering the argument that Kyiv needs the power to strike at the Ukrainian peninsula annexed by Russia in 2014.
9:13 PM · Jan 18, 2023
276 Likes 82 Retweets
Moscow considers Crimea to be Russian. A year after Russia's 2014 annexation, western sources acknowledged that Crimeans feel the same way. But it's actually immaterial whether you agree with Moscow or with the
Type here to search
Heavy rain
11:28 AM
1/23/2023

War, Erdogan: jan23 **Turkey Cancels Swedish Defense Minister's Visit Over Decision to Allow Protests**

War, iran, policy: jan23 **Iran Condemns EU Vote Over 'Terrorist' Designation for IRGC**

Iran, war, markets: jan23 **Iran's Currency Hits Record Low Amid Tensions With the West**

War: jan23 **- Former British Prime Minister Boris Johnson visited Kyiv on a surprise trip on Sunday, meeting President Volodymyr Zelenskiy and pledging that Britain would "stick by Ukraine as long as it takes".**

During his trip, Johnson visited Borodyanka and Bucha, the suburbs of the Ukrainian capital that became a byword for atrocities in the West when Russian forces drove towards Kyiv in the first phase of the invasion before being repelled.

"I can tell you that the UK will be sticking by Ukraine for as long as it takes," Johnson told the mayor of Bucha.

"You're going to win and you're going to get all the Russians out of your country, but we will be there for the long-term. And we will also want to be helping you to reconstruct," he said speaking through an interpreter.

In Kyiv, Johnson was personally welcomed by Zelenskiy and a row of top officials including the foreign minister and the head of the president's office who lined up in a yard near the presidential administration in the heart of the city.

Last week Britain said it would supply Ukraine with 14 Challenger 2 tanks and other heavy weaponry.

War, germany: **Allies Angry At German 'Indecision' On Tanks For Ukraine Amid Russian Gains In East & South jan22**

Latvia’s foreign minister Edgars Rinkēvičs, announced the morning after officials failed to reach an agreement that his country alongide Estonia "call on Germany to provide Leopard tanks to Ukraine now. This is needed to stop Russian

aggression, help Ukraine and restore peace in Europe quickly. **Germany as the leading European power has special responsibility in this regard**."

Several NATO countries have been on standby after expressing willingness to send the highly sophisticated German-made Leopard tanks to Ukraine, namely, Poland, Denmark and Finland - but Berlin has to sign off on it first.

Neither Washington nor Berlin are ready to take the lead on this, with Germany's new defense minister Boris Pistorius having stressed following the meeting that "**we have to be careful** because we have a duty to look carefully and intensively at **what might be the consequences** for anybody in that conflict."

Poland too is said to be waiting impatiently. "Poland's Defense Ministry did not immediately confirm Reznikov's assertion, but **Polish officials have been among the most vociferous** voices urging Germany to clear the way for Leopards," according to one US media report. "The Polish government has said it stands ready to send some of its own, though legally it needs Germany to sign off on any such move."

The reference was to Ukrainian defense minister Oleksii Reznikov's earlier assertion "Countries that already have Leopard tanks can begin training missions for our tank crews" **inside Poland**. "We will start with that, and we will go from there." But the Polish government didn't confirm this plan.

President Zelensky's office has been scathing in its critique of Germany and US slowness to move on the issue, with presidential adviser Mykhailo Podolyak saying "indecision is killing more of our people."

"You'll help Ukraine with the necessary weapons anyway and realize that there is no other option to end the war," he said on Twitter, adding: ***"Every day of delay is the death of Ukrainians. Think faster."***

German parliamentarian @SevimDagdelen on US pressuring Germany to send tanks to Ukraine, while the US refuses to do the same: the US is seeking "to prevent cooperation between Germany and Russia forever." https://t.co/QmgUFcCr0X

— Aaron Maté (@aaronjmate) January 19, 2023

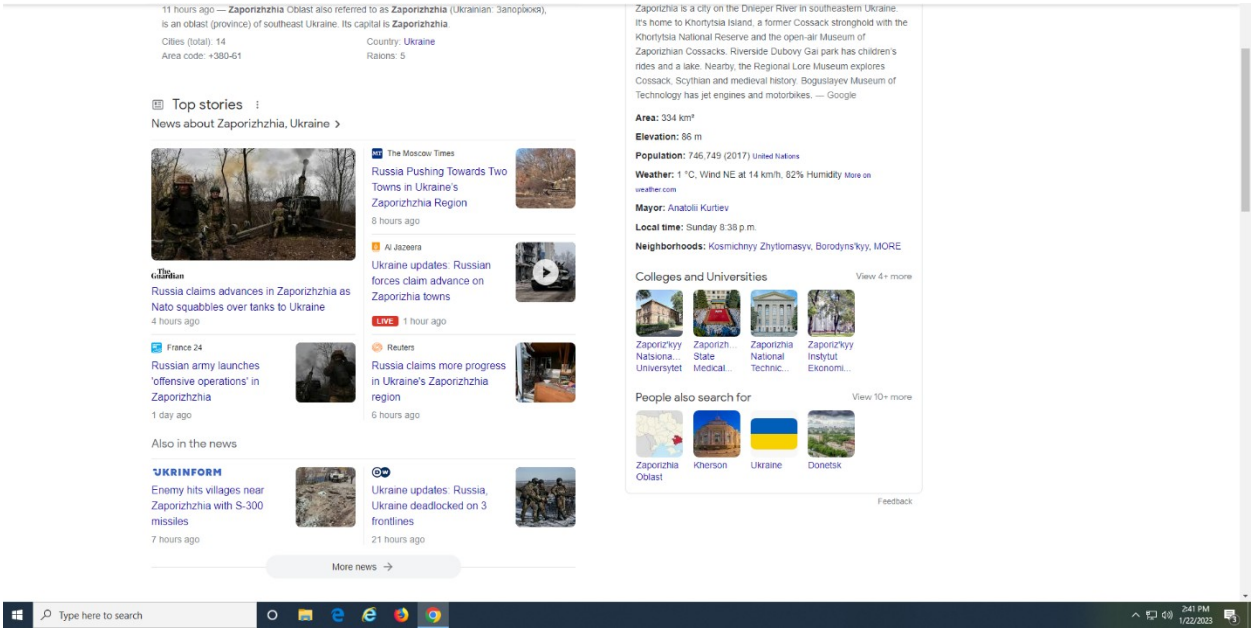
Zelensky in a weekend address said: "We will still have to fight for the supply of modern tanks, but every day we make it more obvious there is no alternative to making the decision on tanks." He then said, "The only thing worth emphasizing is the time, the delivery time. Each agreement must be implemented as quickly as possible."

Russia, meanwhile, continues to **make gains in the east and south of Ukraine**. Referencing the Zaporizhzhia region, the defense ministry cited "advantageous positions" in a Saturday statement."As a result of offensive operations, units of the Eastern Military District took more advantageous lines and positions," it said.

According to a summary of recent advances in *Newsweek*, "The reported ramped up fighting in Zaporizhzhia came as Russian and Wagner Group forces claim to be making gains in Eastern Donetsk, where Russia has been conducting a monthslong and grinding fight to capture the Ukrainian-controlled city of Bakhmut."

And further, "The Wagner Group's chief, Russian President Vladimir Putin's ally Yevgeny Prigozhin, announced Thursday on Telegram that his forces had taken full control of the village of Klishchiivka just south of Bakhmut."

War: jan22 Zaporizhzhia fighting ramps up


11 hours ago — Zaporizhzhia Oblast also referred to as Zaporizhzhia (Ukrainian: Запорізька), is an oblast (province) of southeast Ukraine. Its capital is Zaporizhzhia.
Cities (total): 14
Area code: +380-61
Country: Ukraine
Raions: 5
Top stories
News about Zaporizhzhia, Ukraine
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Zaporizhia is a city on the Dnieper River in southeastern Ukraine. It's home to Khortytsia Island, a former Cossack stronghold with the Khortytsia National Reserve and the open-air Museum of Zaporizhian Cossacks. Riverside Dubovy Gai park has children's rides and a lake. Nearby, the Regional Lore Museum explores Cossack, Scythian and medieval history. Boguslayev Museum of Technology has jet engines and motorbikes. — Google
Area: 334 km²
Elevation: 86 m
Population: 746,749 (2017) United Nations
Weather: 1 °C, Wind NE at 14 km/h, 82% Humidity More on weather.com
Mayor: Anatolii Kurtiev
Local time: Sunday 8:38 p.m.
Neighborhoods: Kosmichnyy Zhytlomasyv, Borodyns'kyy, MORE
Colleges and Universities
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Zaporizhia National Technic...
Zaporiz'kyy Instytut Ekonomi...
People also search for
View 10+ more
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Kherson
Ukraine
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Type here to search
2:41 PM
1/22/2023

Censorship, stats, markets: it's not capitalism…it hasn't been for a long time, and anybody in the know would've been aware of this.

From 2009 to 2020, Fannie and Freddie's annual share of the total MBS market averaged 70 percent. If we include Ginnie Mae

securities, those that are backed by FHA mortgages, the federal share of the MBS market averaged 92 percent per year. (These numbers are from SIFMA data and Ginnie Mae's March 2021 release.)

There has been virtually no private market for MBS for the last thirteen years.

What's just as troubling is that from 1996 to 2007, Fannie and Freddie's annual share of the total MBS market averaged 60 percent. That's only 10 percentage points lower than the post-crisis share, and it shows that they were responsible for more than the majority of the market in both time periods. The trend, of course, is moving in the wrong direction.

While neither of these numbers may seem problematic to anyone who wants the federal government standing behind the MBS market, they are extremely difficult to reconcile with the GSE's federal charters. (Both of them, incidentally, are encoded in federal law).

Private institutional mortgage investors barely exist relative to the GSEs, and the notion that the GSEs have been meeting private investors' standards during the last few decades is laughable.

So it seems like a good time to point out, once again, that Fannie and Freddie have done nothing to provide a durable increase in the U.S. homeownership rate. The starting point for this evidence is 1970.

Freddie Mac was created in 1970 and, at that time, was tied to the (soon to implode) Savings & Loan industry. Fannie Mae completed its transition to a GSE in 1970. Prior the start of this transition (in 1968), Fannie exclusively purchased federally insured mortgages, a function that was spun off to Ginnie Mae.

According to the Census Bureau, the homeownership rate was 64 percent in 1970. That's basically where it hovered for most of the 1980s and 1990s, higher than where it bottomed out in 2016, and almost exactly where it stood in the middle of 2019. (For anyone interested, evidence also shows that the federal backing of mortgages was not the major driver in the homeownership rate bump between 1940 and 1960).

The evidence is clear. Fannie and Freddie (along with the FHA) have helped fuel more mortgage debt, with less equity, for higher-priced homes. These policies have been particularly harmful for low-income families.

Naturally, you will not hear this sort of talk from trade groups such as the National Association of Realtors (NAR), or anyone else pushing for an explicit federal backstop for the MBS market.

The NAR's Bernard Fulton, for example, recently argued that Fannie and Freddie are "absolutely critical to the homeownership rate in America, and the job creation that supports," adding that "Without them, our market is significantly smaller, maybe catastrophically smaller for some businesses."

Urban's Jim Parrott and Moody's Mark Zandi have relied on similar fears. They have argued, for instance, that shrinking the mortgage giants' footprint or fully privatizing them would mean that "the housing and mortgage markets, and by extension the broader economy, could face significant disruption."

Oddly enough, even the types of reform proposals that Zandi has supported in the past – those that include explicit federal guarantees for the MBS market – assumed that "between a third and half of all mortgage loans will be covered by this catastrophic government backstop."

There simply is no way to implement such a proposal without shrinking the GSEs' footprint, but nobody in the Biden administration appears in a hurry to go that route. Nonetheless, *any* reform proposal will have to shrink the GSEs' market share if it is to adhere to federal law.

One of the only silver linings in the GSEs' lengthy conservatorship is that any *willing* administration can shrink their footprint. All Americans need now is an administration willing to complete the task.

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https://www.ft.com/content/2a2ac3f8-c263-4753-ab70-799318a979e3

More than a decade after the Bank of Japan decided to buy up exchange traded funds as part of an ambitious quantitative easing programme it owns 63 per cent of all locally listed ETF assets, data for the year to July show. While the proportion is higher than the 58 per cent ownership recorded last year by ETFGI, a data provider, it is a reduction on the peak of nearly 77 per cent reached in 2017. Despite some fluctuations, however, one of the anomalies of the Japan ETF market is that the central bank has owned far more than 50 per cent of all Japanese ETF assets since 2016 — a fact that has drawn much scrutiny. One academic study, for example, found that afternoon returns of component stocks of the Nikkei 225 blue-chip index were significantly higher than those of non-Nikkei 225 stocks when the BoJ purchased ETFs. However, another study has suggested that the BoJ, as a large buy-and-hold equity ETF investor

that participates in securities lending, has served to stabilise the stock market without causing strong distortions, despite the fact that the purchases have made it a significant owner of Japan's largest listed companies. "The BoJ owning ETFs has provided additional credibility for ETFs in Japan and globally," said Deborah Fuhr, founder of ETFGI. "With larger assets the annual fees on ETFs can be lower," she added. Whether the huge presence of the central bank is seen as a positive or negative factor, however, the greatest question it casts over the market is the possibility that it will one day seek to unwind its positions.

Vail pointed out that the ETF programme had proved extremely profitable for the BoJ, both in terms of the dividend yield and long-term capital gains, and that the programme had not attracted any criticism from global central banks. "The ETF programme is likely far from the first aspect of any potential monetary tightening, which we do not foresee anyway for this year or perhaps for an extended period," Vail said.

The New York Fed purchases agency mortgage-backed securities (MBS) guaranteed by Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac, or Ginnie Mae for the System Open Market Account (SOMA) portfolio as directed by the Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC). Operation results include all outright purchases and sales, dollar rolls and coupon swaps of agency MBS, including small value exercises.
Note: For TBA operations conducted after May 1st 2019, FNCL and FNCI tickers denote 30-year and 15-year Uniform MBS (UMBS) TBA contracts, respectively.

read later
https://mises.org/wire/six-graphs-showing-just-how-much-government-has-grown

war, vaccine, censorship: jan22 **elon, the king of esg and renewable energy, seems to also be playing into this whole antivax narrative: ""Felt like I was dying for several days. Hopefully, no permanent damage, but I don't know." Elon Musk Reveals "Major Side Effects" After 2nd COVID Booster**

policy: **"The union membership rate of public-sector workers (33.1 percent) continued to be more than five times higher than the rate of private-sector workers (6.0 percent), BLS, Thursday, January 19, 2023**
blsdotgov/news.release/union2.nr0.htm

history, fall of rome: **In 711, a Muslim army conquered the Visigothic Kingdom in Hispania. Under Tariq ibn Ziyad, the Islamic army landed at Gibraltar and, in an eight-year campaign, occupied all except the northern kingdoms of the Iberian Peninsula in the Umayyad conquest of Hispania. is the Arabic name given to Muslim Iberia. The Muslim conquerors were Arabs and Berbers; following the conquest, conversion and arabization of the Hispano-Roman population took place, a long process, spurred on in the 9th and 10th centuries, the majority of the population in Al-Andalus eventually converted to Islam.[43] The Muslims were referred to by the generic name Moors**

The Muslim population was divided per ethnicity (Arabs, Berbers, Muladí), and the supremacy of Arabs over the rest of group was a recurrent causal for strife, rivalry and hatred, particularly between Arabs and Berbers.[45] Arab elites could be further divided in the Yemenites (first wave) and the Syrians (second wave).[46] Christians and Jews were allowed to live as part of a stratified society under the *dhimmah* system,[47] although Jews became very important in certain fields.[48] Some Christians migrated to the Northern Christian kingdoms, while those who stayed in Al-Andalus progressively arabised and became known as *musta'arab* (mozarabs).[49] The slave population comprised the *Ṣaqāliba* (literally meaning "slavs", although they were slaves of generic European origin) as well as Sudanese slaves.[50]

Al-Andalus became a center of culture and learning, especially during the Caliphate of Córdoba. The Caliphate reached the height of its power under the rule of Abd-ar-

Rahman III and his successor al-Hakam II, becoming then, in the view of Jaime Vicens Vives, "the most powerful state in Europe".[53] Abd-ar-Rahman III also managed to expand the clout of Al-Andalus across the Strait of Gibraltar,[53] waging war, as well as his successor, against the Fatimid Empire.[54]

History, jews: **Massacre of 1391, considered one of the worst killings of jews in european history**

The **Massacre of 1391**, also known as **the pogroms of 1391**, was a display of antisemitism and violence against Jews in Spain. It was one of the Middle Ages' worst antisemitic outbreaks; Jews were ultimately given the choice of converting or leaving Spain in 1492.[1] Jews in the Iberian Peninsula at this time were generally disliked, and violence against them was common even until the 15th century.[2] The year 1391, however, marked a peak of anti-Jewish violence.[2]

Attitudes toward Jews in the 1300s[edit]

In the years leading up to the Massacre of 1391, Jews were not particularly liked by the Catholic church because they were believed to have crucified the Christ. However, there was tolerance as they were under the protection of Spain and had crucial roles in banking and finance that made them a financial asset.[3] In the early fourteenth century (1311–12) the general council of Vienne met and decided to censor the Moors' religious freedoms, and some would claim that the general council became aware of what their neighbors thought of their tolerance of Jews, and therefore returned to Spain with a newfound goal to damage the peaceful tolerance among Jews, Moors, and larger Spanish population.[3] However, while it is likely that this inspired ill feelings towards Jews, there was no drastic result because of the current tax on the Jewish people which contributed greatly to the kingdom and the church. Thus, Jews were too much of an economic asset to be violently discriminated against.[3]

Violence in the early 1300s[edit]

Peter (Pedro) I (known by his enemies as Peter the Cruel) was the king of Castile from 1350 to 1365.[2] Unlike the norm of abusing Jews financially, Peter was sympathetic to them.[2] Some would explain his Jewish sympathy by claiming that he was illegitimately Jewish himself.[2]

While a rebel against the church, Peter the Cruel had become a sort of protector of Jews against Henry of Trastamara, his half-brother.[3] Henry had killed around 1,200 Jews in 1355, ordered a Jewish massacre in 1360, and was involved in the murder of many other Jews in 1366.[3] When Peter's half-brother Henry killed him during a battle in a civil war in 1369, Jews lost their royal protection and became the subject of attacks in Castile.[2] They also were greatly taxed.[2] While Henry had criticized his brother for being in support of Jews, he himself became tolerant of them because of the financial burdens placed on them and the services they provided.[2] Because of Henry's violence toward them, the common people of Spain began to accept this violent antisemitism, but Jews were too important financially to be completely annihilated.[3]

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Massacre_of_1391

censorship: **sick: "JSTOR told the Chronicle that each and every year, they turn away 150 million attempts to gain access to articles. That's right. 150 million attempts! "(i try to read their stuff all the time, and it always seems to be something really important, too)**

theatlanticdotcom/technology/archive/2012/01/every-year-jstor-turns-away-150-million-attempts-to-read-journal-articles/251382/

https://www.reddit.com/r/Piracy/comments/xjynxo/i_have_unlimited_access_to_jstor_how_can_i/

In late 2010 and early 2011, Aaron Swartz, an American computer programmer, writer, political organizer and Internet activist, used MIT's data network to bulk-download a substantial portion of JSTOR's collection of academic journal articles.[23][24] When the bulk-download was discovered, a video camera was placed in the room to film the mysterious visitor and the relevant computer was left untouched. Once video was captured of the visitor, the download was stopped and Swartz was identified. Rather than pursue a civil lawsuit against him, in June 2011 JSTOR reached a settlement wherein Swartz surrendered the downloaded data.[23][24]

The following month, federal authorities charged Swartz with several "data theft"-related crimes, including wire fraud, computer fraud, unlawfully obtaining information from a protected computer, and recklessly damaging a protected computer.[25][26] Prosecutors in the case claimed that Swartz acted with the intention of making the papers available on P2P file-sharing sites.[24][27]

Swartz surrendered to authorities, pleaded not guilty to all counts, and was released on $100,000 bail. In September 2012, U.S. attorneys increased the number of charges against Swartz from four to thirteen, with a possible penalty of 35 years in prison and $1 million in fines.[28][29] The case still was pending when Swartz committed suicide in January 2013.[30] Prosecutors dropped the charges after his suicide.[31]

wiki..

Scientific journals are the ticketmaster of academia. They contribute nothing but sit in between those providing content and those accessing it, siphoning off cash at every point. Peer review is done for free by other academics, institutions pay to publish and then pay *again* to access papers. These papers arrive ready-formatted and can't be edited so no work is required there, and these days they are largely online so the cost of printing volumes as they used to is vastly reduced. They do so little and take so much, all the while blocking public access to knowledge.
Swartz was a martyr, hit with draconian laws designed for acts of terrorism, the US government once again wielding its might to protect the wealth of private interests. Science should be free for all.

https://www.reddit.com/r/Damnthatsinteresting/comments/z7leb7/aaron_swartz_cofounder_of_reddit_was_charged_with/

war, history: **Salvadoran Civil War**

the United Nations estimated that FMLN guerrillas were responsible for five percent of atrocities committed during the civil war, while 85 percent were committed by the Salvadoran security forces

The United Nations (UN) reports that the war killed more than 75,000 people between 1979 and 1992, along with approximately 8,000 disappeared persons. Violations of the most basic human rights – particularly the kidnapping, torture, and murder of suspected FMLN sympathizers by state security forces and paramilitary death squads – were pervasive.[31][32][33]

However, due to pressure from Colonel Gutiérrez Avendaño and the United States to step down, Colonel Majano Ramos resigned from the junta entirely on 13 December 1980, effectively ending the second junta

After the resignation of Majano Ramos on 13 December 1980, the Third Revolutionary Government Junta was formed.[40] It consisted of the members of the previous junta: Colonel Gutiérrez Avendaño, Duarte, Morales Ehrlich, and Ávalos Navarrete.[40] Duarte served as the President of the junta while Colonel Gutiérrez Avendaño served as Vice President.[40] The third junta continued the implementation of the agrarian reforms and promised democratization.[41] The United States, under President Ronald Reagan, continued economic aid and diplomatic support to the junta.[42][43][44]

The FMLN launched the "Final Offensive" to overthrow the government and take control of the country on 10 January 1981.[14][45] The junta contained the offensive, and by the end of January, the offensive ended in a strategic failure for the FMLN, but they did prove that they were a capable fighting force.[14] The junta responded to the offensive by launching their own scorched-earth offensive in March 1981 in northern El Salvador.[46]

On 17 March 1982, 4 Dutch journalists and 5 FMLN guerrillas were ambushed by the army near the town of El Paraíso, Chalatenango, with 8 being killed in the attack.[47] The attack outraged many, especially in the Netherlands, where people demanded the removal of the junta from power.[48] Duarte stated that it was not an attack but instead simply an accident and that the journalists were caught in the crossfire between army soldiers and FMLN guerrillas.[48]

From 1979 to 1982, the juntas committed various human rights violations and war crimes. Several deaths squads and paramilitaries were formed by junta soldiers and officers that attacked leftist militants and civilians.[52][53] Because the death squads were made up of army soldiers and the United States was funding the army, the United States was indirectly funding the death squads as well.[52][53]

The most notorious US-trained army battalion was the Atlácatl Battalion.[54] The battalion committed two of the deadliest massacres during the civil war: the El Calabozo massacre and the El Mozote massacre.[54][55][56] Meanwhile, the National Guard, the No. 1

Military Detachment, and paramilitaries that were formerly a part of ORDEN committed the Sumpul River massacre on the Honduran border.[57]

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Revolutionary_Government_Junta_of_El_Salvador

The United Nations (UN) reports that the war killed more than 75,000 people between 1979 and 1992, along with approximately 8,000 disappeared persons. Violations of the most basic human rights – particularly the kidnapping, torture, and murder of suspected FMLN sympathizers by state security forces and paramilitary death squads – were pervasive.[31][32][33]
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/El_Mozote_massacre

With tensions mounting and the country on the verge of an insurrection, the civil-military Revolutionary Government Junta (JRG) deposed Romero in a coup on 15 October 1979. The United States feared that El Salvador, like Nicaragua and Cuba before it, could fall to communist revolution.[53] Thus, Jimmy Carter's administration supported the new military government with vigor, hoping to promote stability in the country.[54] While Carter provided some support to the government, the subsequent administration significantly increased U.S. spending in El Salvador.[55] By 1984 Ronald Reagan's government would spend nearly $1 billion on economic aid for the Salvadoran government.[56]

In February 1980, Archbishop Óscar Romero published an open letter to US President Jimmy Carter in which he pleaded with him to suspend the United States' ongoing program of military aid to the Salvadoran regime. He advised Carter that "Political power is in the hands of the armed forces. They know only how to repress the people and defend the interests of the Salvadoran oligarchy." Romero warned that US support would only "sharpen the injustice and repression against the organizations of the people which repeatedly have been struggling to gain respect for their fundamental human rights".[72] On 24 March 1980, the Archbishop was assassinated while celebrating Mass, the day after he called upon Salvadoran soldiers and security force members to not follow their orders to kill Salvadoran civilians. President Carter stated this was a "shocking and unconscionable act".[73] At his funeral a week later, government-sponsored snipers in the National Palace and on the periphery of the Gerardo Barrios Plaza were responsible for the shooting of 42 mourners.[74]

On 7 May 1980, former army major, Roberto D'Aubuisson, was arrested with a group of civilians and soldiers at a farm. The raiders found documents connecting him and the civilians as organizers and financiers of the death squad who killed Archbishop Romero, and of plotting a *coup d'état* against the JRG. Their arrest provoked right-wing terrorist threats and institutional pressures forcing the JRG to release D'Aubuisson. In 1993, a U.N. investigation confirmed that D'Aubuisson ordered the assassination.[75]

In its effort to defeat the insurgency, the Salvadoran Armed Forces carried out a "scorched earth" strategy, and adopted tactics similar to those being employed in neighboring Guatemala by its security forces. These tactics were inspired and adapted from U.S. counterinsurgency strategies used during the Vietnam War.[82] An integral part of the Salvadoran Army's counterinsurgency strategy entailed "draining the sea" or

"drying up the ocean," that is, eliminating the insurgency by eradicating its support base in the countryside. The primary target was the civilian population – displacing or killing them in order to remove any possible base of support for the rebels. The concept of "draining the sea" had its basis in a doctrine by Mao Zedong that emphasized that "The guerrilla must move amongst the people as a fish swims in the sea."[83]

Aryeh Neier, the executive director of Americas Watch, wrote in a 1984 review about the scorched earth approach: "This may be an effective strategy for winning the war. It is, however, a strategy that involves the use of terror tactics—bombings, strafings, shellings and, occasionally, massacres of civilians."[84]

Beginning in 1984, the Salvadoran Air Force was able to locate guerrilla strongholds reportedly using intelligence from U.S. Air Force planes flying over the country.[85][86]

Scorched earth offensives of 1981[edit]

On 15 March 1981, the Salvadoran Army began a "sweep" operation in Cabañas Department in northern El Salvador near the Honduran border. The sweep was accompanied by the use of scorched earth tactics by the Salvadoran Army and indiscriminate killings of anyone captured by the army. Those displaced by the "sweep" who were not killed outright fled the advance of the Salvadoran Army; hiding in caves and under trees to evade capture and probable summary execution. On 18 March, three days after the sweep in Cabañas began, 4–8,000 survivors of the sweep (mostly women and children) attempted to cross the Rio Lempa into Honduras to flee violence. There, they were caught between Salvadoran and Honduran troops. The Salvadoran Air Force, subsequently bombed and strafed the fleeing civilians with machine gun fire, killing hundreds. Among the dead were at least 189 persons who were unaccounted for and registered as "disappeared" during the operation.[87]

A second offensive was launched, also in Cabañas Department, on 11 November 1981 in which 1,200 troops were mobilized, including members of the Atlácatl Battalion. Atlácatl was a rapid response counter-insurgency battalion organized at the U.S. Army School of the Americas in Panama in 1980. Atlácatl soldiers were trained and equipped by the U.S. military,[88][89] and were described as "the pride of the United States military team in San Salvador. Trained in antiguerrilla operations, the battalion was intended to turn a losing war around."[90]

The November 1981 operation was commanded by Lt. Col. Sigifredo Ochoa, a former Treasury Police chief with a reputation for brutality. Ochoa was close associate of Major Roberto D'Aubuisson and was alleged to have been involved in the assassination of Archbishop Oscar Romero. D'Aubuisson and Ochoa were both members of La Tandona, the class of 1966 at the Captain General Gerardo Barrios Military School.[91] From the start, the invasion of Cabanas was described as a "cleansing" operation by official sources.[92] Hundreds of civilians were massacred by the army as Col. Ochoa's troops moved through the villages. Col. Ochoa claimed that hundreds of guerrillas had been killed but was able to show journalists only fifteen captured weapons, half of them virtual antiques, suggesting that most of those killed in the sweep were unarmed.[93]

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Salvadoran_Civil_War

censorship, media: **Sci-Hub was founded in Kazakhstan by Alexandra Elbakyan in 2011, in response to the high cost of research papers behind paywalls**

level 2
WikiSummarizerBot
·4 mo. ago

Sci-Hub
Sci-Hub is a shadow library website that provides free access to millions of research papers and books, without regard to copyright, by bypassing publishers' paywalls in various ways. Sci-Hub was founded in Kazakhstan by Alexandra Elbakyan in 2011, in response to the high cost of research papers behind paywalls (see Serials crisis). The site is extensively used worldwide. In September 2019, the site's owners said that it served approximately 400,000 requests per day.

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9

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·4 mo. ago
Pirate Party

From Wikipedia:
The court restricted the sites from uploading, publishing or making any article available until 6 January 2021. In response to the lawsuit, as well as to Elbakyan's claim that the FBI had requested data from her Apple account, Reddit users on the subreddit r/DataHoarder organized to download and seed backups of the articles on Sci-Hub, with the intention of creating a decentralized and uncensorable version of the site.

Looks like you should ask around in r/datahoarder

The way I see it, that's 150 million chances lost to improve the quality of the Internet. JSTOR, as the keeper of so much great scholarly work, should be one of the Internet's dominant suppliers of facts and serious research. But if something is not publicly

available, key gatekeepers like journalists and Wikipedians, move to the best available source, even if they know that there probably is a better source behind JSTOR's paywall. So, instead, JSTOR's vast troves of valuable information remain within academia and the broader Internet's immune system is that much weaker.
theatlanticdotcom/technology/archive/2012/01/every-year-jstor-turns-away-150-million-attempts-to-read-journal-articles/251382/

"Is JSTOR tiptoeing gingerly toward public access, or making a meaningless gesture to ward off critics? Take your pick."

Vaccine: jan21 **"Citigroup to fire unvaccinated employees"**

War, censorship: **July 2022: German journalist faces three years in jail for Donbas reporting, appaently was reporting on ukrainian atrocities**

By Geeta Mohan: German journalist Alina Lipp said she was facing three years in prison in her home country for her reporting on crimes committed by Ukrainian forces against civilians in the eastern Donbass region of the war-ravaged country.

The charges against her relate to coverage of her News from Russia Telegram channel where she shared information with its 175,000 subscribers in both German and Russian.

She explained that she did not misrepresent facts. She just filmed what she saw and does not spread fake information. "Will file a counter case in German courts against action taken by the government," she noted.

She is accused by the German authorities of supporting the Russian invasion of Ukraine and faces three years in prison under article 140 of the constitution or a monetary fine.

Lipp further added, “More and more Germans are now agreeing with her since they are suffering massive price hikes and inflation.”

Speaking on the human rights violation issue, she agreed that Germany should not speak of human rights violations in other countries (like India) while they persecute journalists in their own country.

Iran, crypto, markets: Jan 21, 2023 **Iran specifically started to look at bitcoin as an alternative monetary means to be used in trade after it became clear that European companies were failing to trade with Iran over fears that they would fall afoul of US primary sanctions.**

A top Iranian MP says Iran and Russia can use digital currencies to dodge the US sanctions that are to be re-instated against the Islamic Republic.

As Iran is facing the risks of returning US sanctions, one of the country’s parliamentarians has raised the idea for Tehran and Moscow to start using digital currencies to dodge the sanctions.

The idea was raised by MP Mohammad-Reza Pourebrahimi during a recent meeting in Moscow with Dmitry Mezentsev, the Chair of the Federation Council Committee on Economic Policy.

Pourebrahimi was quoted by media as saying that digital currencies could provide a way for both Iran and Russia to avoid US dollar transactions, as well as a possible replacement of the SWIFT interbank payment system.

He also added that the Central Bank of Iran (CBI) had been demanded by the Parliament to start developing proposals for using digital currencies.

Pourebrahimi – who chairs the Iranian Parliamentary Commission for Economic Affairs – was further quoted as saying that he had discussed this topic in the State Duma's Committee on Economic Policy and that Iran had established cooperation with Russia on this issue, according to a report by the Russian news portal RBC.

“They [Russia] share our opinion. We said that if we manage to move this work forward, then we will be the first countries that use digital currencies in the exchange of goods,” he said.

In turn, Mezentsev noted that “interbank relations between our countries should be of great importance” against the backdrop of international sanctions currently in place against both Russia and Iran.

The idea to use digital currencies such as bitcoin in international trade emerged in Tehran over the past few years particularly after the country’s officials complained that the US was “terrorizing” companies from doing business with the Islamic Republic.

Iran specifically started to look at bitcoin as an alternative monetary means to be used in trade after it became clear that European companies were failing to trade with Iran over fears that they would fall afoul of US primary sanctions.

This was believed to have prevented Iran from reaping the benefits of the removal of sanctions in 2016.

To the same effect, a Swedish firm was reported last March to have come up with an innovative solution which would both help bypass US sanctions against Iran and also enable banks to do away with the need to process transactions with Iran.

The firm - Brave New World Investments AB – was reported to have started accepting deposits in bitcoin which it would convert to Iranian Rial and invest in equities on the Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE).

China, crypto, markets: **Crypto-art craze reaches China at 'NFT' exhibition**

News / News Bulletin
Crypto-art craze reaches China at 'NFT' exhibition
Friday, 26 March 2021 3:27 PM [Last Update: Friday, 26 March 2021 3:27 PM]
This screen grab shows the 'NFT' exhibition - the world's first exhibitions dedicated to blockchain art - in Beijing, China.
Bitcoin-inspired paintings and nightmarish faces conjured up by artificial intelligence, the global craze for "NFTs" — virtual authenticity certificates — swept into Beijing on Friday as curators opened one of the world's first exhibitions dedicated to blockchain art.
The show includes digital paintings by American artist Beeple, who sold a collage at Christie's for a record $69.3 million earlier this month.
(Source: AFP)
LATEST NEWS
Iran's hand-woven carpet output up by over 46% in March-Dec. 30min
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Crypto,iran: **February 2021:A report by the semi-official Iranian news agency Tasnim estimates that daily trade volume for cryptocurrencies in Iran amounts to nearly $200 million.**

Public interest in cryptocurrencies like bitcoin is booming in Iran as a report estimates that unregulated exchanges are engaged in nearly $200 million worth of trade for digital currencies everyday.

The Sunday report by the semi-official Iranian news agency Tasnim showed that only a single Iranian trading platform for cryptocurrencies had carried out transactions worth 13.96 trillion rials (nearly $56 million) over 24 hours of trading for 12 different digital currencies.

The report said the platform, the largest in Iran with a 30-percent share of the market, had 600,000 registered investors.

The Iranian government has yet to recognize cryptocurrencies for local trade and platforms use normal authentication procedures to be able to process transactions.

The Tasnim report said that the number of investors with activity in the local crypto market had exceeded one million, adding that daily trading volume in a total of 20 platforms amounts to 50 trillion rials ($200 million).

Iran studying various options on official digital currency: CBI chief

Iran’s central bank is studying various strategies on how it can issue an official digital currency.

The report said many of the people engaged in trade for cryptocurrencies were retail investors who have been discouraged by a recent drop in the value of trade in the Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE).

It said people were taking the risk of buying a bitcoin to compensate for the losses they have suffered in the TSE, where main index TEDPIX has dropped to 1.22 million points, down from over 2 million recorded in mid-summer.

That comes as the global daily trading volume for cryptocurencies has reached nearly $200 billion in a market valued at around $1.4 trillion where the dominant currency bitcoin has surged to over $57,000.

More….

The Iranian government has yet to issue a verdict on bitcoin mining which is reportedly mushrooming across the country where subsidized power rates are attracting prospectors from countries as far as China, Ukraine and France.

The electricity-intensive process has recently been blamed for a surge in power consumption which has put the national grid under severe strain amid sizzling summer temperatures.

Saeed Zarandi, the deputy industry, mining and trade minister for planning, said Wednesday several government committees were examining the issue, with a number of ministries and the central bank about to make a final decision.

“With regard to bitcoin, we have to investigate its threats and opportunities and ultimately make an appropriate decision by taking these issues into account,” he told Tasnim news agency.

More…

Reports in local media on Wednesday suggested that the CEO of Tehran’s Stocks Exchange (TSE) had resigned a day after it became known that people had been illegally mining bitcoin in a basement of the TSE’s headquarters in northern Tehran.

According to a report from the country’s state-run media, the Islamic Republic News Agency, Tehran Stock Exchange, or TSE, market vice president Mahmoud Goudarzi will be leading the company following the departure of Sahraee. The change in leadership

seems to be the result of “a number of miners” being discovered in the basement of the TSE building located in the district of Sa'adat Abad.

Jul 10, 2019: Chinese cryptocurrency miners have officially requested to set up shop in Iran, taking advantage of the country's cheap energy.

Iran faces Chinese request for bitcoin mining - Press TV

https://www.presstv.ir › Detail › 2019/07/10 › Iran-bitc...

Jul 10, 2019 — Chinese cryptocurrency miners have officially requested to set up shop in Iran, taking advantage of the country's cheap energy.

october 24th, 2020: "Iran allows exclusive use of cryptocurrencies to fund imports"

Trading digital currencies like bitcoin became legal after the regulations were announced in August 2019 although the government has been keeping a cautious eye on the size of the trade and its potential impacts on the financial situation in Iran.

Using cryptocurrencies to fund imports could help the CBI evade restrictions imposed by the United States on Iran’s use of the dollar system.

That comes as central banks in countries like China and Russia plan to introduce official cryptocurrencies to boost trade and economic exchanges with the rest of the world.

2019: Mohammad Javad Azari Jahromi, Iran’s minister for information and communications technology: ""“Some of our top clerics have issued fatwas that say Bitcoin is money without a reserve, that it is rejected by Islamic and cybercurrencies are haram,” Jahromi said. “When we explain to them this is not a currency but an asset, they change their mind.”

https://www.theglobeandmail.com/business/international-business/african-and-mideast-business/article-iranians-turn-to-bitcoin-as-us-sanctions-squeeze-national-economy/

Alexander Brazhnikov, executive director of the Russian Association of Crypto Industry and Blockchain.

Iran, energy, war: cool image of iranian gas deposits

War, Israel: Abraham Accords saw Israel normalise relations with the UAE, Bahrain, Morocco, and Sudan,effective since September 15, 2020

Israel's establishment of diplomatic relations with the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain marked the first instance of Arab–Israeli normalization since 1994, when the Israel–Jordan peace treaty came into effect

In December 2020, Morocco joined the accords and normalized relations with Israel after the Trump administration recognized Moroccan control over the

disputed Western Sahara region.[9] In January 2021, Sudan joined the Abraham Accords and normalized relations with Israel after the Trump administration agreed to remove Sudan from the State Department list of "state sponsors of terrorism"[10] and provide a $1.2 billion dollar loan to help Sudan clear its debts to the World Bank.[11][

Among the representatives of the 70 nations in attendance were a number of Arab officials, creating the first situation since the Madrid Peace Conference in 1991 where an Israeli leader and senior Arab officials were all in attendance at the same international conference focused on the Middle East. The Madrid Conference at the time set the stage for the Oslo Accords.

Church, history: **common belief of the Abrahamic religions—particularly Judaism, Christianity, and Islam—regarding the role of Abraham as a patriarch.**

common belief of the Abrahamic religions—particularly Judaism, Christianity, and Islam—regarding the role of Abraham as a patriarch.

Media, Israel, war, censorship: **Jordan Peterson signed up with the Daily Wire and immediately went on a trip to Israel to say it's the greatest country in the world.**

798,567 views Jul 12, 2022I'm very excited to announce that I have joined DailyWire+

Jordan Peterson, the controversial Canadian right-wing media personality and author of *12 Rules for Life*, will be coming to Israel on October 6th for a one-time lecture at Jerusalem's International Convention Center. This will be Peterson's first time in the Jewish state.

"The fact that the event is taking place in Jerusalem carries a deep personal meaning for Peterson and Shapiro, and it also carries a symbolic message,"

Amiad Cohen, co-publisher of the Shibolet Library, and CEO of the Tikva Fund

In July, he sparked backlash after he urged Sunni and Shia Muslims to get pen-pals of the opposite sect and for them to reach out to Christians and Jews to achieve religious coherence in the Middle East and North Africa.

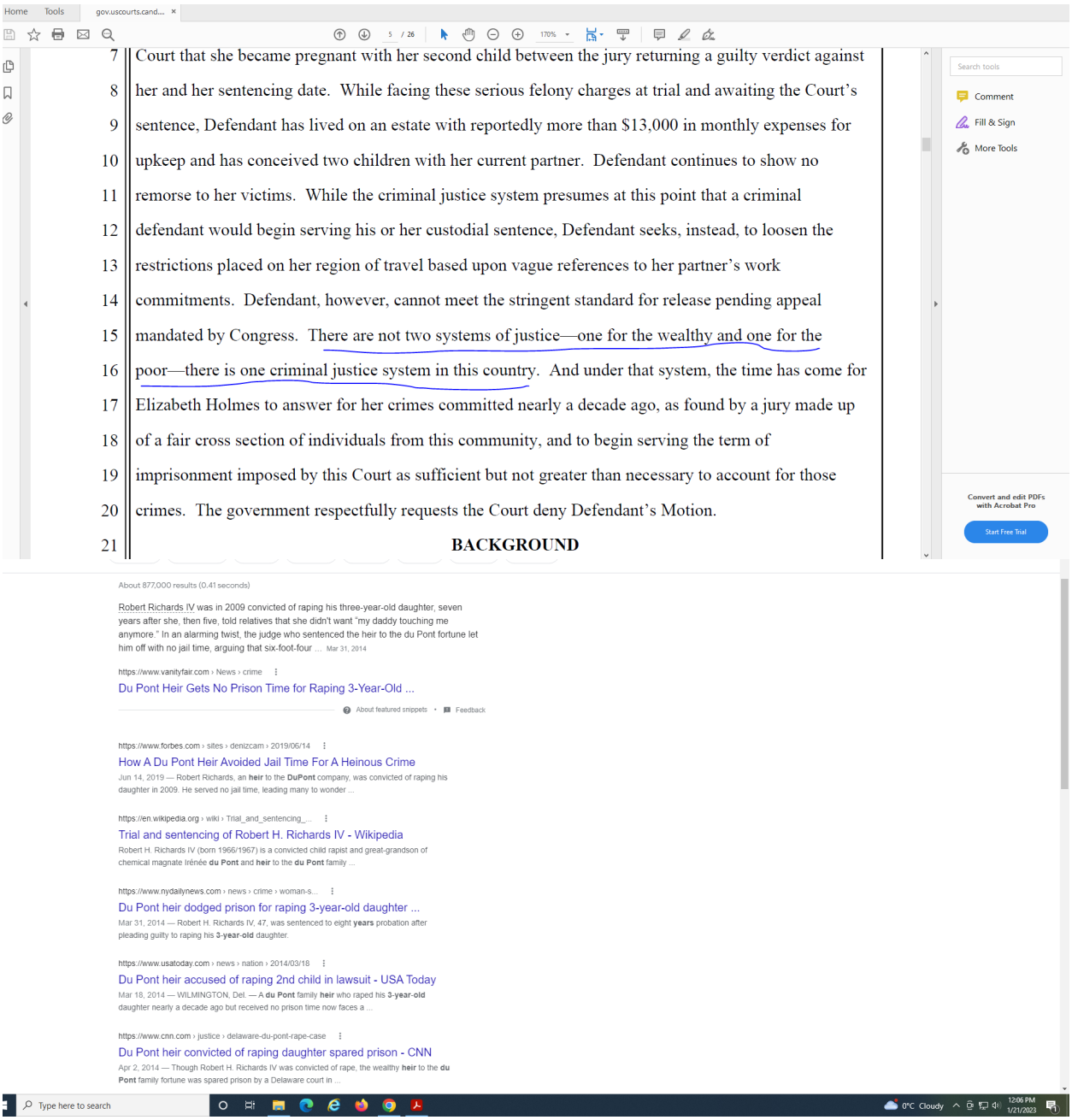
The message was condemned for appearing to ignore the demographics of the region - where Muslims, Christians, and Jews have lived together for centuries - and the inter-faith dialogue active in the region.

His comment came off the back of the so-called Abraham Accords that saw Israel normalise relations with the UAE, Bahrain, Morocco, and Sudan - although the accords are commonly thought to be part of a common strategic vision for the region rather than an ecumenical effort.

forgot this about jordan peterson: "In 2016, the University of Toronto professor declared his opposition to Canada's Bill C-16, which was intended to expand the country's anti-discrimination laws to include "gender identity or expression."

Censorship, stats, journal, government: **This statement from the UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA SAN JOSE DIVISION is hilarious: "There are not two systems of justice—one for the wealthy and one for the poor—there is one criminal justice system in this country."**

Disgraced Theranos founder Elizabeth Holmes attempted to flee the United States after her January 2022 fraud conviction, prosecutors said in a new court filing.



Court that she became pregnant with her second child between the jury returning a guilty verdict against her and her sentencing date. While facing these serious felony charges at trial and awaiting the Court's sentence, Defendant has lived on an estate with reportedly more than $13,000 in monthly expenses for upkeep and has conceived two children with her current partner. Defendant continues to show no remorse to her victims. While the criminal justice system presumes at this point that a criminal defendant would begin serving his or her custodial sentence, Defendant seeks, instead, to loosen the restrictions placed on her region of travel based upon vague references to her partner's work commitments. Defendant, however, cannot meet the stringent standard for release pending appeal mandated by Congress. There are not two systems of justice—one for the wealthy and one for the poor—there is one criminal justice system in this country. And under that system, the time has come for Elizabeth Holmes to answer for her crimes committed nearly a decade ago, as found by a jury made up of a fair cross section of individuals from this community, and to begin serving the term of imprisonment imposed by this Court as sufficient but not greater than necessary to account for those crimes. The government respectfully requests the Court deny Defendant's Motion.

BACKGROUND

About 877,000 results (0.41 seconds)
Robert Richards IV was in 2009 convicted of raping his three-year-old daughter, seven years after she, then five, told relatives that she didn't want "my daddy touching me anymore." In an alarming twist, the judge who sentenced the heir to the du Pont fortune let him off with no jail time, arguing that six-foot-four ... Mar 31, 2014
https://www.vanityfair.com › News › crime
Du Pont Heir Gets No Prison Time for Raping 3-Year-Old ...
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How A Du Pont Heir Avoided Jail Time For A Heinous Crime
Jun 14, 2019 — Robert Richards, an heir to the DuPont company, was convicted of raping his daughter in 2009. He served no jail time, leading many to wonder ...
https://en.wikipedia.org › wiki › Trial_and_sentencing_...
Trial and sentencing of Robert H. Richards IV - Wikipedia
Robert H. Richards IV (born 1966/1967) is a convicted child rapist and great-grandson of chemical magnate Irénée du Pont and heir to the du Pont family ...
https://www.nydailynews.com › news › crime › woman-s...
Du Pont heir dodged prison for raping 3-year-old daughter ...
Mar 31, 2014 — Robert H. Richards IV, 47, was sentenced to eight years probation after pleading guilty to raping his 3-year-old daughter.
https://www.usatoday.com › news › nation › 2014/03/18
Du Pont heir accused of raping 2nd child in lawsuit - USA Today
Mar 18, 2014 — WILMINGTON, Del. — A du Pont family heir who raped his 3-year-old daughter nearly a decade ago but received no prison time now faces a ...
https://www.cnn.com › justice › delaware-du-pont-rape-case
Du Pont heir convicted of raping daughter spared prison - CNN
Apr 2, 2014 — Though Robert H. Richards IV was convicted of rape, the wealthy heir to the du Pont family fortune was spared prison by a Delaware court in ...
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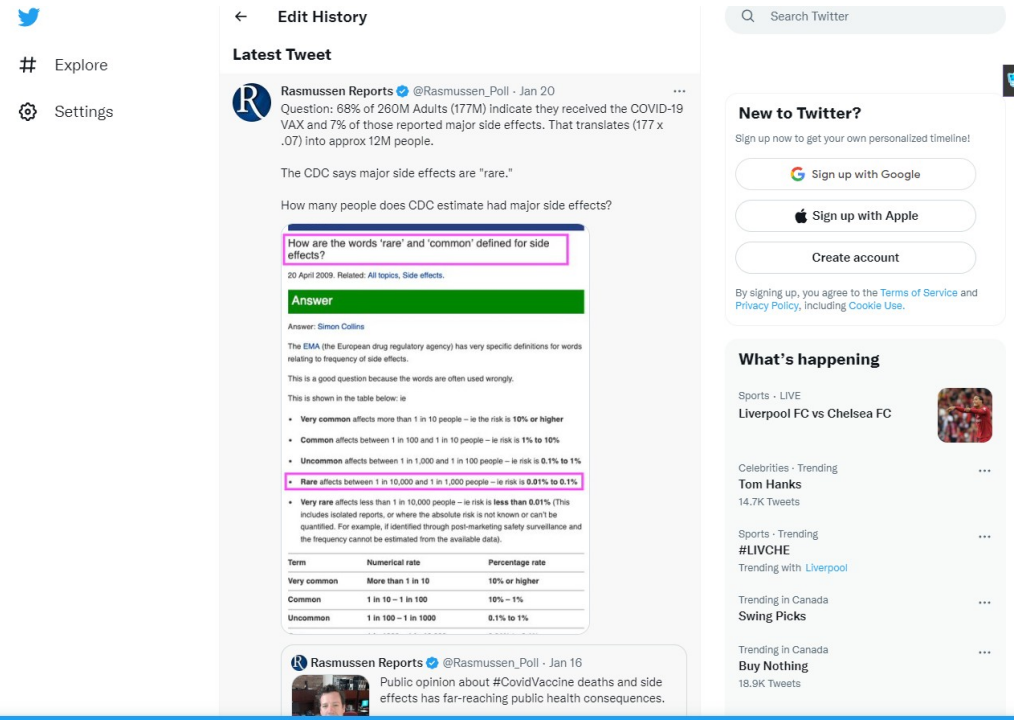
Markets, war: **IMF tells zimbabwe, stop using gold, use interest bearing instruments instead"**

The International Monetary Fund urged authorities last month to wind down the use of the gold coins and to use appropriate interest-bearing instruments to carry out monetary policy

bnnbloombergdotca/zimbabwe-s-gold-coins-sell-above-2-000-each-for-the-first-time-1.1870740

war: **Viktor Orban is Buckling to EU Sanctions jan21**
investmentwatchblogdotcom/viktor-orban-is-buckling-to-eu-sanctions/

vaccine, war, media, censorship: **rasmussen doing poll finally on vaccine adverse reactions: just more evidence that the big one is coming, and that this is just more primer**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Rasmussen Reports @Rasmussen_Poll · Jan 20
Question: 68% of 260M Adults (177M) indicate they received the COVID-19 VAX and 7% of those reported major side effects. That translates (177 x .07) into approx 12M people.
The CDC says major side effects are "rare."
How many people does CDC estimate had major side effects?
How are the words 'rare' and 'common' defined for side effects?
20 April 2009. Related: All topics, Side effects.
Answer
Answer: Simon Collins
The EMA (the European drug regulatory agency) has very specific definitions for words relating to frequency of side effects.
This is a good question because the words are often used wrongly.
This is shown in the table below: ie
Very common affects more than 1 in 10 people – ie the risk is 10% or higher
Common affects between 1 in 100 and 1 in 10 people – ie risk is 1% to 10%
Uncommon affects between 1 in 1,000 and 1 in 100 people – ie risk is 0.1% to 1%
Rare affects between 1 in 10,000 and 1 in 1,000 people – ie risk is 0.01% to 0.1%
Very rare affects less than 1 in 10,000 people – ie risk is less than 0.01% (This includes isolated reports, or where the absolute risk is not known or can't be quantified. For example, if identified through post-marketing safety surveillance and the frequency cannot be estimated from the available data).
Term | Numerical rate | Percentage rate
Very common | More than 1 in 10 | 10% or higher
Common | 1 in 10 – 1 in 100 | 10% – 1%
Uncommon | 1 in 100 – 1 in 1000 | 0.1% to 1%
Rasmussen Reports @Rasmussen_Poll · Jan 16
Public opinion about #CovidVaccine deaths and side effects has far-reaching public health consequences.
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Trending in Canada
Swing Picks
Trending in Canada
Buy Nothing
18.9K Tweets

Censorship, stats, journal, tech, war: **google now says men can menstruate (REAL)**

10:04
48
Google
Sign in
can men mentrate
Images
News
Shopping
Vide
Showing results for can men menstruate
Search instead for can men mentrate
Having a period is not a feminine thing, and people of all genders menstruate, including non-binary people, agender people and even plenty of men! Menstruation doesn't change anything about your gender, it's just a thing that some bodies do.
https://www.transhub.org.au › mens...
Menstruation - TransHub
About featured snippets
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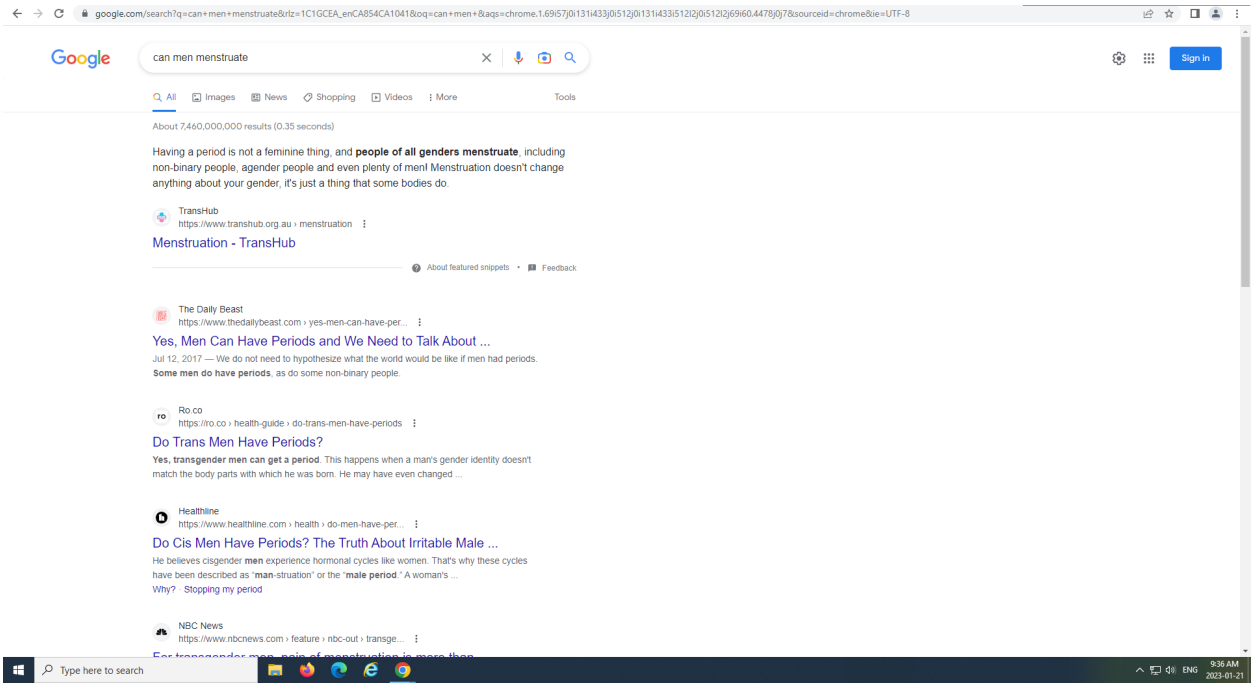
People also ask
AA
can men mentrate

At first, I didn’t think this was real?

Google saying men can menstruate? No, way!! That can’t be true!

But after finally looking it, I was shocked to see that no, it wasn't fake at all, and yes, the largest search engine in the world was placing at the top of its page, for every man, woman, and child of our entire generation to see, that men actually can (and not, can’t) mentruate.


google.com/search?q=can+men+menstruate&rlz=1C1GCEA_enCA854CA1041&oq=can+men+&aqs=chrome.1.69i57j0i131i433j0i512j0i131i433i512l2j0i512l2j69i60.4478j0j7&sourceid=chrome&ie=UTF-8
Google
can men menstruate
Sign in
All
Images
News
Shopping
Videos
More
Tools
About 7,460,000,000 results (0.35 seconds)
Having a period is not a feminine thing, and people of all genders menstruate, including non-binary people, agender people and even plenty of men! Menstruation doesn't change anything about your gender, it's just a thing that some bodies do.
TransHub
https://www.transhub.org.au › menstruation
Menstruation - TransHub
About featured snippets
Feedback
The Daily Beast
https://www.thedailybeast.com › yes-men-can-have-per...
Yes, Men Can Have Periods and We Need to Talk About ...
Jul 12, 2017 — We do not need to hypothesize what the world would be like if men had periods.
Some men do have periods, as do some non-binary people.
Ro.co
https://ro.co › health-guide › do-trans-men-have-periods
Do Trans Men Have Periods?
Yes, transgender men can get a period. This happens when a man's gender identity doesn't match the body parts with which he was born. He may have even changed ...
Healthline
https://www.healthline.com › health › do-men-have-per...
Do Cis Men Have Periods? The Truth About Irritable Male ...
He believes cisgender men experience hormonal cycles like women. That's why these cycles have been described as "man-struation" or the "male period." A woman's ...
Why? Stopping my period
NBC News
https://www.nbcnews.com › feature › nbc-out › transge...
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ENG
9:36 AM
2023-01-21

This is world we live in folks!

Just a quick FYI: **Men CAN'T menstruate**!!

Where is it coming from??!

What hole?!

WHAT HOLE!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!??

Censorship, tech: **Facebook And Instagram Could Soon Allow Transgender And Non-Binary People To Show Their Breasts**

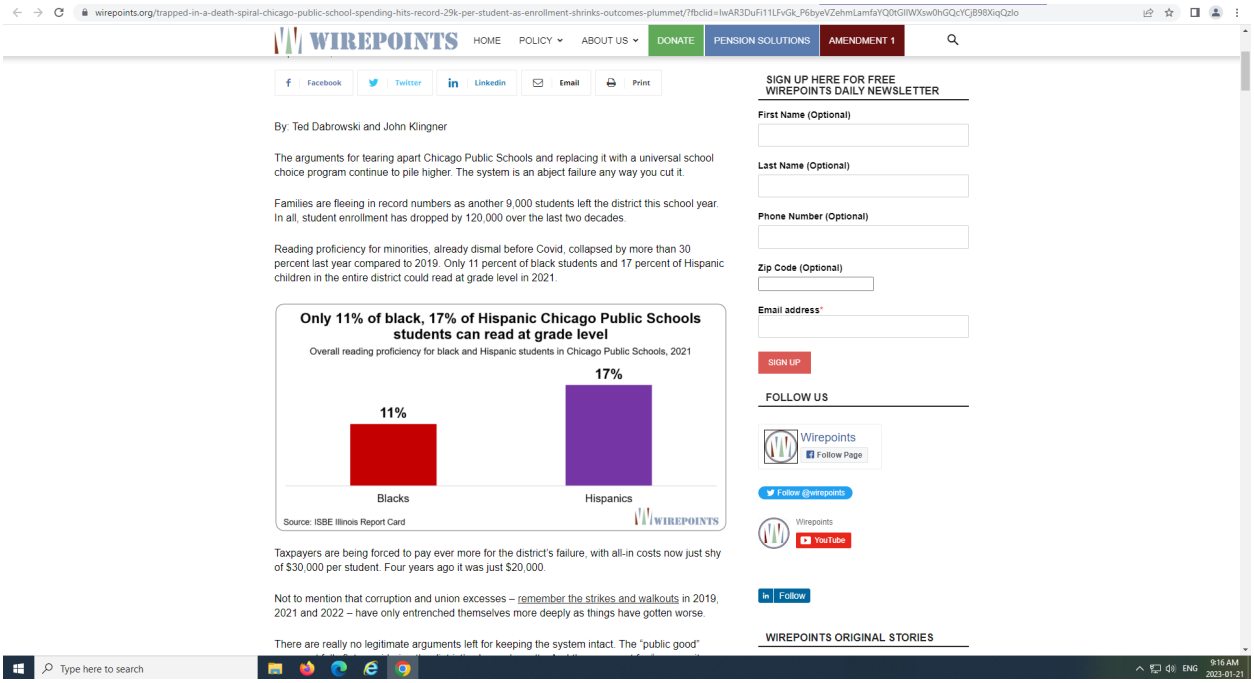
Regardless, Meta’s Oversight Board, which the company refers to as its "Supreme Court" for moderation and censorship policies, ordered both Facebook

and Instagram to "lift a ban on images of topless women for anyone who identifies as transgender or non-binary," the Post wrote. Jan21

Crypto: **Cardano Founder Considers Bailing Out CoinDesk, Says $200 Million Is "Overpriced"jan21**

Censorship, policy: incredible statement: "The obvious solution would be for our schools to imitate the most successful parts of our economy. Our economy – the richest in human history – has historically been premised on the belief that competition is good, monopolies are bad, and failing organizations should either adapt or pay the price. Where there is genuine competition, consumers will choose the best options, and businesses will strive to provide them – or go under. Public schools don't face those incentives and don't pay a price for their failure. The rest of us do, especially the ill-served students, who will pay a terrible price for the rest of their lives."

the state of america's public school system: Only 11% of blacks can read at grade level in chicago


wirepoints.org/trapped-in-a-death-spiral-chicago-public-school-spending-hits-record-29k-per-student-as-enrollment-shrinks-outcomes-plummet/?fbclid=IwAR3DuFi11LFvGk_P6byeVZehmLamfaYQ0tGIIWXsw0hGQcYCjB98XiqQzlo
WIREPOINTS
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By: Ted Dabrowski and John Klingner
The arguments for tearing apart Chicago Public Schools and replacing it with a universal school choice program continue to pile higher. The system is an abject failure any way you cut it.
Families are fleeing in record numbers as another 9,000 students left the district this school year. In all, student enrollment has dropped by 120,000 over the last two decades.
Reading proficiency for minorities, already dismal before Covid, collapsed by more than 30 percent last year compared to 2019. Only 11 percent of black students and 17 percent of Hispanic children in the entire district could read at grade level in 2021.
Only 11% of black, 17% of Hispanic Chicago Public Schools students can read at grade level
Overall reading proficiency for black and Hispanic students in Chicago Public Schools, 2021
11%
17%
Blacks
Hispanics
Source: ISBE Illinois Report Card
WIREPOINTS
Taxpayers are being forced to pay ever more for the district's failure, with all-in costs now just shy of $30,000 per student. Four years ago it was just $20,000.
Not to mention that corruption and union excesses – remember the strikes and walkouts in 2019, 2021 and 2022 – have only entrenched themselves more deeply as things have gotten worse.
There are really no legitimate arguments left for keeping the system intact. The "public good"
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Last Name (Optional)
Phone Number (Optional)
Zip Code (Optional)
Email address*
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policy, media: **increased discovery standards have tossed 69% of cases out of court, new story by NYP saysThe study noted the state's discovery rules were such a radical version of reform that even Manhattan District Attorney Alvin Bragg (D) was not happy with them, stating, "My Office's lawyers and support staff continue their herculean efforts in managing discovery-related obligations."**

It's appalling how broken the justice system is with the radical policies democrats impose. They empower criminals at the expense of the innocent,"

Justice ‘reforms’ forcing prosecutors to toss out 69% of NYC criminal cases, alarming new study finds

Meanwhile, the discovery law has also “crippled” the justice system by leading to “mass attrition” in DA’s offices statewide, with many of the 30 respondents to an October survey saying that 40% of ADAs in their offices had quit since the discovery law took effect, according to the study.

“Tens of thousands of cases were needlessly dismissed across the city last year because of the reform’s requirement that prosecutors share mounds of inconsequential information. Revisions to the reform are urgently needed,” she said.

nypostdotcom/2023/01/19/new-study-shows-how-ny-law-puts-bad-guys-back-on-streets/?utm_source=sailthru&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=metro_news_alert&utm_content=20230119?&utm_source=sailthru&lctg=626f2a53a63162293d03514d&utm_term=NYP%20-%20Metro%20Alerts

war: jan20 Some diplomats and officials in Brussels, while dismayed by the serial negative signals from Yanukovych in recent weeks, remained nonetheless hopeful that the president was bluffing, seeking to extract better terms from the EU and could yet yield at the last minute in Vilnius, issuing a presidential pardon for Tymoshenko. "We deplore the pressure and blackmailing tactics that Russia has used against Ukraine, and other countries," said Hannes Swoboda, leader of the social democrats

in the European Parliament. "It is equally deplorable that Ukraine seems to have given in to this pressure."

theguardianDOTcom/world/2013/nov/21/ukraine-suspends-preparations-eu-trade-pact

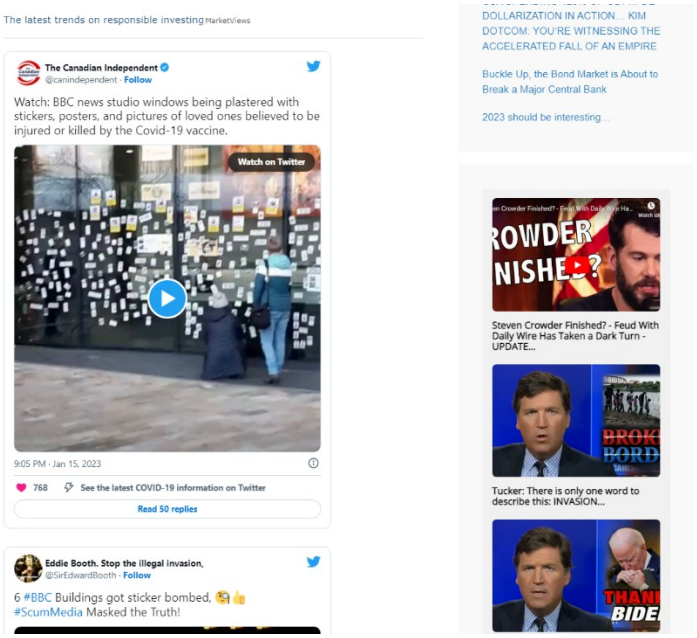
Putin pulls out of 21 treaties with EU; Russia, Ukraine's largest trading partner jan20

2013: uykraine pulls out of eu partnership in favor of largest trading partner and former 'countryman' (i DID NOT KNOW ABOUT THIS. ALWAYS STUDY RECENT HISTORY BEFORE COMMENTING. JUST LIKE THE STOCK MARKET, YOU JUST DONT KNOW WHAT IS GOING ON BECAUSE YOU WERENT THERE!!!!): At stake was a trade agreement and a political association deal stemming from 2005 when the EU launched its "eastern neighbourhood policy" offering trade and political benefits to post-Soviet states traditionally falling within Moscow's orbit.

2013, guardian: The EU's losing battle for Ukraine is likely to encourage the Kremlin in its view that Europe is weak and divided and lacks foreign policy muscle. In September Armenia succumbed to Russian pressure and turned its back on years of negotiations with the EU in a move that stunned Brussels.

Policy: **Elon Musk: “Even if you tax every billionaire in America at 100%, it barely makes a dent in the national debt. In the end, the government will be forced to tax everyone to pay the debt. Btw, $31T doesn’t include unfunded liabilities, which are *much* higher.”**

Vaccine, war, censorship, journal: **yeah, 6 buildings..they're waiting until everybody is most pissed, then comes the big one**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Tucker: There is only one word to describe this: INVASION...

January 19, 2023 10:12 pm by IWB

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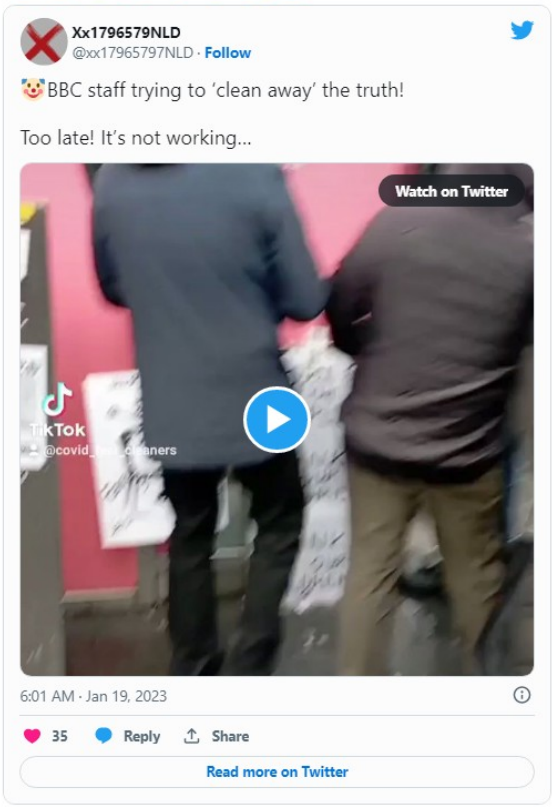
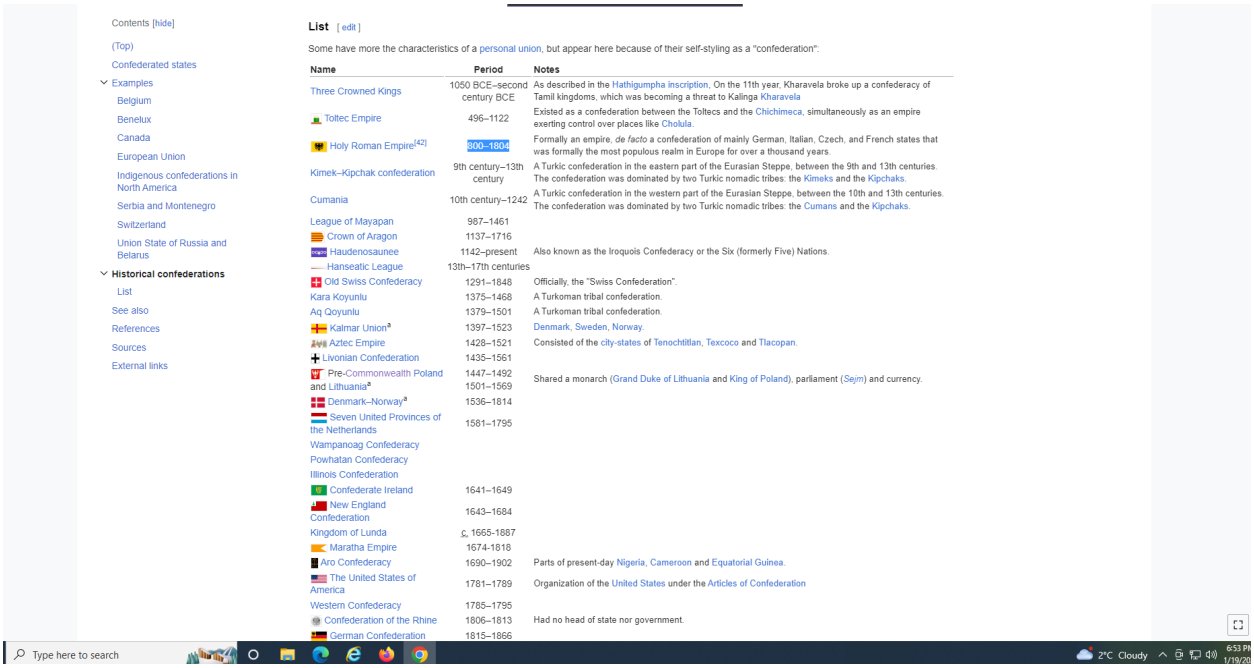


At Least 6 BBC Buildings Across UK Covered with Photos of People Who Died from COVID Vaccine (VIDEO) No More Lies

History, rome: confirms what i was looking for, although just a simple declarative statement, still probably credible: (800–1804)Formally an empire, de facto a confederation of mainly German, Italian, Czech, and French states that was formally the most populous realm in Europe for over a thousand years.



Early Middle Ages

typically regarded by historians as lasting from the late 5th or early 6th century to the 10th century

marked the start of the Middle Ages of European history, following the decline of the Western Roman Empire, and preceding the High Middle Ages (c. 11th to 13th centuries). The alternative term *late antiquity*, for the early part of the period, emphasizes elements of continuity with the Roman Empire,

The period saw a continuation of trends evident since late classical antiquity, including population decline, especially in urban centres, a decline of trade, a small rise in average temperatures in the North Atlantic region and increased migration. In the 19th century the Early Middle Ages were often labelled the *Dark Ages*, a characterization based on the relative scarcity of literary and cultural output from this time, although the term is scarcely used by academics today.[1] However, the Eastern Roman Empire, or Byzantine Empire, continued to survive, though in the 7th century the Rashidun Caliphate and the Umayyad Caliphate conquered swathes of formerly Roman territory.

Many of the listed trends reversed later in the period. In 800, the title of *Emperor* was revived in Western Europe with Charlemagne, whose Carolingian Empire greatly affected later European social structure and history. Europe experienced a return to systematic agriculture in the form of the feudal system, which adopted such innovations as three-field planting and the heavy plough. Barbarian migration stabilized in much of Europe, although the Viking expansion greatly affected Northern Europe.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Early_Middle_Ages

The **Holy Roman Empire**[17] was a political entity[18] in Western, Central, and Southern Europe that developed during the Early Middle Ages and continued until its dissolution in 1806 during the Napoleonic Wars.[19]

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Holy_Roman_Empire

history, fall of rome: **eastern roman recapture in 500, byzantine was greek: the Byzantines managed to fend off assaults by the migrating barbarians. Their dreams of subduing the Western potentates briefly materialized during the reign of Justinian I in 527–565. Not only did Justinian restore some western territories to the Roman Empire, including Rome and the Italian peninsula itself, but he also codified Roman law (with his codification remaining in force in many areas of Europe until the 19th century) and commissioned the building of the largest and most architecturally advanced edifice of the Early Middle Ages, the Hagia Sophia. However, his reign also saw the outbreak of a bubonic plague pandemic,[19][20] now known retroactively as the Plague of Justinian. The Emperor himself was afflicted, and within the span of less than a year, an estimated 200,000 Constantinopolites—two out of every five city residents—had died of the disease**

Justinian's successors Maurice and Heraclius confronted invasions by the Avar and Slavic tribes. After the devastations by the Slavs and the Avars, large areas of the Balkans became depopulated. In 626 Constantinople, by far the largest city of early medieval Europe, withstood a combined siege by Avars and Persians. Within several decades, Heraclius completed a holy war against the Persians, taking their capital and having a Sassanid monarch assassinated. Yet Heraclius lived to see his spectacular success undone by the Muslim conquests of Syria, three Palaestina provinces, Egypt, and North Africa which was considerably facilitated by religious

disunity and the proliferation of heretical movements (notably Monophysitism and Nestorianism) in the areas converted to Islam.

Restored Walls of Constantinople

Although Heraclius's successors managed to salvage Constantinople from two Arab sieges (in 674–77 and 717), the empire of the 8th and early 9th century was rocked by the great Iconoclastic Controversy, punctuated by dynastic struggles between various factions at court. The Bulgar and Slavic tribes profited from these disorders and invaded Illyria, Thrace and even Greece. After the decisive victory at Ongala in 680 the armies of the Bulgars and Slavs advanced to the south of the Balkan mountains, defeating again the Byzantines who were then forced to sign a humiliating peace treaty which acknowledged the establishment of the First Bulgarian Empire on the borders of the Empire.

To counter these threats a new system of administration was introduced. The regional civil and military administration were combined in the hands of a general, or strategos. A theme, which formerly denoted a subdivision of the Byzantine army, came to refer to a region governed by a strategos. The reform led to the emergence of great landed families which controlled the regional military and often pressed their claims to the throne (see Bardas Phocas and Bardas Sklerus for characteristic examples).

Christ crowning Constantine VII

ivory plaque, ca. 945

By the early 8th century, notwithstanding the shrinking territory of the empire, Constantinople remained the largest and the wealthiest city west of China, comparable

only to Sassanid Ctesiphon, and later Abbasid Baghdad. The population of the imperial capital fluctuated between 300,000 and 400,000 as the emperors undertook measures to restrain its growth. The only other large Christian cities were Rome (50,000) and Salonika (30,000).[23] Even before the 8th century was out, the Farmer's Law signalled the resurrection of agricultural technologies in the Roman Empire. As the 2006 *Encyclopædia Britannica* noted, "the technological base of Byzantine society was more advanced than that of contemporary western Europe: iron tools could be found in the villages; water mills dotted the landscape; and field-sown beans provided a diet rich in protein".[24]

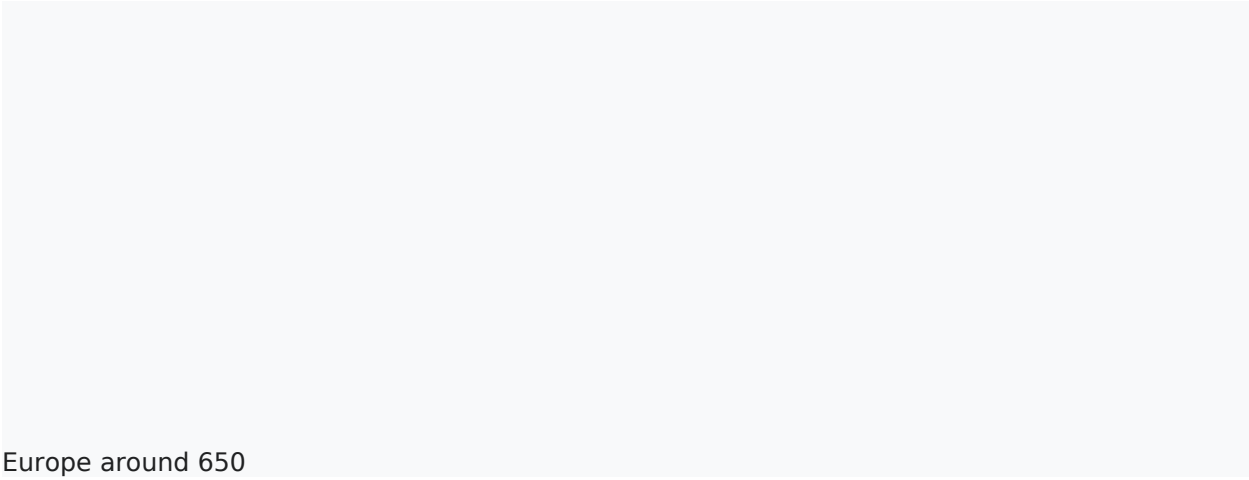
The ascension of the Macedonian dynasty in 867 marked the end of the period of political and religious turmoil and introduced a new golden age of the empire. While the talented generals such as Nicephorus Phocas expanded the frontiers, the Macedonian emperors (such as Leo the Wise and Constantine VII) presided over the cultural flowering in Constantinople, known as the Macedonian Renaissance. The enlightened Macedonian rulers scorned the rulers of Western Europe as illiterate barbarians and maintained a nominal claim to rule over the West. Although this fiction had been exploded with the coronation of Charlemagne in Rome (800), the Byzantine rulers did not treat their Western counterparts as equals. Generally, they had little interest in political and economic developments in the barbarian (from their point of view) West.

Against this economic background the culture and the imperial traditions of the Eastern Roman Empire attracted its northern neighbours—Slavs, Bulgars, and Khazars—to Constantinople, in search of either pillage or enlightenment. The movement of the Germanic tribes to the south triggered the great migration of the Slavs, who occupied the vacated territories. In the 7th century, they moved westward to the Elbe, southward to the Danube and eastward to the Dnieper. By the 9th century, the Slavs had expanded into sparsely inhabited territories to the south and east from these natural frontiers, peacefully assimilating the indigenous Illyrian and Finnic populations.

Rise of Islam[edit]

632–750

Main articles: Spread of Islam, Early Muslim conquests, Arab–Byzantine wars, Muslim conquest of the Levant, Umayyad conquest of Spain, and History of Islam in southern Italy



Europe around 650

From the 7th century, Byzantine history was greatly affected by the rise of Islam and the Caliphates. Muslim Arabs first invaded historically Roman territory under Abū Bakr, first Caliph of the Rashidun Caliphate, who entered Roman Syria and Roman

Mesopotamia. The Byzantines and neighbouring Persian Sasanids had been severely weakened by a long succession of Byzantine–Sasanian wars, especially the climactic Byzantine–Sasanian War of 602–628. Under Umar, the second Caliph, the Muslims decisively conquered Syria and Mesopotamia, as well as Roman Palestine, Roman Egypt, parts of Asia Minor and Roman North Africa, while they entirely toppled the Sasanids. In the mid 7th century, following the Muslim conquest of Persia, Islam penetrated into the Caucasus region, of which parts would later permanently become part of Russia.[25] This expansion of Islam continued under Umar's successors and then the Umayyad Caliphate, which conquered the rest of Mediterranean North Africa and most of the Iberian Peninsula. Over the next centuries Muslim forces were able to take further European territory, including Cyprus, Malta, Septimania, Crete, and Sicily and parts of southern Italy.[26]

The Muslim conquest of Hispania began when the Moors (mostly Berbers and some Arabs) invaded the Christian Visigothic Kingdom in the year 711, under their Berber leader Tariq ibn Ziyad. They landed at Gibraltar on 30 April and worked their way northward. Tariq's forces were joined the next year by those of his superior, Musa ibn Nusair. During the eight-year campaign most of the Iberian Peninsula was brought under Muslim rule—except for small areas in the north-northwest (Asturias) and largely Basque regions in the Pyrenees. This territory, under the Arab name Al-Andalus, became part of the expanding Umayyad empire.

The unsuccessful second siege of Constantinople (717) weakened the Umayyad dynasty and reduced their prestige. After their success in overrunning Iberia, the conquerors moved northeast across the Pyrenees. They were defeated by the Frankish leader Charles Martel at the Battle of Poitiers in 732. The Umayyads were overthrown in 750 by the Abbāsids and most of the Umayyad clan were massacred.

A surviving Umayyad prince, Abd-ar-rahman I, escaped to Spain and founded a new Umayyad dynasty in the Emirate of Cordoba in 756. Charles Martel's son Pippin the Short retook Narbonne, and his grandson Charlemagne established the Marca Hispanica across the Pyrenees in part of what today is Catalonia, reconquering Girona in 785 and Barcelona in 801. The Umayyads in Hispania proclaimed themselves caliphs in 929.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Early_Middle_Ages

the most shattering defeat that the Romans had suffered since the Battle of Cannae (216 BC), according to the Roman military writer Ammianus Marcellinus.:

In the Gothic War (376–382), the Goths revolted and confronted the main Roman army in the Battle of Adrianople (378). By this time, the distinction in the Roman army between Roman regulars and barbarian auxiliaries had broken down, and the Roman army was composed mainly of barbarians and soldiers recruited for a single campaign. The general decline in discipline also led to the use of smaller shields and lighter weaponry.[6] Not wanting to share the glory, Eastern Emperor Valens ordered an attack on the Therving infantry under Fritigern without waiting for Western Emperor Gratian, who was on the way with reinforcements. While the Romans were fully engaged, the Greuthung cavalry arrived. Only one-third of the Roman army managed to escape. This

represented the most shattering defeat that the Romans had suffered since the Battle of Cannae (216 BC), according to the Roman military writer Ammianus Marcellinus.[7] The core army of the Eastern Roman Empire was destroyed, Valens was killed, and the Goths were freed to lay waste to the Balkans, including the armories along the Danube. As Edward Gibbon comments, "The Romans, who so coolly and so concisely mention the acts of *justice* which were exercised by the legions, reserve their compassion and their eloquence for their own sufferings, when the provinces were invaded and desolated by the arms of the successful Barbarians."[8]

The empire lacked the resources, and perhaps the will, to reconstruct the professional mobile army destroyed at Adrianople, so it had to rely on barbarian armies to fight for it. The Eastern Roman Empire succeeded in buying off the Goths with tribute. The Western Roman Empire proved less fortunate. Stilicho, the western empire's half-Vandal military commander, stripped the Rhine frontier of troops to fend off invasions of Italy by the Visigoths in 402–03 and by other Goths in 406–07.

Fleeing before the advance of the Huns, the Vandals, Suebi, and Alans launched an attack across the frozen Rhine near Mainz; on 31 December 406, the frontier gave way and these tribes surged into Roman Gaul. There soon followed the Burgundians and bands of the Alamanni. In the fit of anti-barbarian hysteria which followed, the Western Roman Emperor Honorius had Stilicho summarily beheaded (408). Stilicho submitted his neck, "with a firmness not unworthy of the last of the Roman generals", wrote Gibbon. Honorius was left with only worthless courtiers to advise him. In 410, the Visigoths led by Alaric I captured the city of Rome and for three days fire and slaughter ensued as bodies filled the streets, palaces were stripped of their valuables, and the invaders interrogated and tortured those citizens thought to have hidden wealth. As newly converted Christians, the Goths respected church property, but those who found sanctuary in the Vatican and in other churches were the fortunate few.

The Goths and Vandals were only the first of many bands of peoples that flooded Western Europe in the absence of administrative governance. Some[*who?*] lived only for war and pillage and disdained Roman ways. Other peoples[9] had been in prolonged contact with the Roman civilization, and were, to a certain degree, romanized. "A poor Roman plays the Goth, a rich Goth the Roman," said King Theoderic of the Ostrogoths.[10] The subjects of the Roman empire were a mixture of Roman Christian, Arian Christian, Nestorian Christian, and pagan.[*citation needed*] The Germanic peoples knew little of cities, money, or writing, and were mostly pagan, though they were increasingly converting to Arianism, a non-trinitarian form of Christianity that considers God the Son to have been created by, and thus inferior to, God the Father, rather than the two being co-eternal, which is the position of Chalcedonian Christianity. Arianism found some favour in the Roman Empire before being eclipsed by the Chalcedonian position and then suppressed as heretical.

During the migrations, or *Völkerwanderung* (wandering of the peoples), the earlier settled populations were sometimes left intact though usually partially or entirely displaced. Roman culture north of the Po River was almost entirely displaced by the migrations. Whereas the peoples of France, Italy, Spain and Portugal continued to speak the dialects of Vulgar Latin that today constitute the Romance languages, the language of the smaller Roman-era population of what is now England disappeared with barely a trace in the territories settled by the Anglo-Saxons, although the Brittanic kingdoms of

the west remained Brythonic speakers. The new peoples greatly altered established society, including law, culture, religion, and patterns of property ownership.

A paten from the Treasure of Gourdon, found at Gourdon, Saône-et-Loire, France.

The *pax Romana* had provided safe conditions for trade and manufacture, and a unified cultural and educational milieu of far-ranging connections. As this was lost, it was replaced by the rule of local potentates, sometimes members of the established Romanized ruling elite, sometimes new lords of alien culture. In Aquitania, Gallia Narbonensis, southern Italy and Sicily, Baetica or southern Spain, and the Iberian Mediterranean coast, Roman culture lasted until the 6th or 7th centuries.

The gradual breakdown and transformation of economic and social linkages and infrastructure resulted in increasingly localized outlooks. This breakdown was often fast and dramatic as it became unsafe to travel or carry goods over any distance; there was a consequent collapse in trade and manufacture for export. Major industries that depended on trade, such as large-scale pottery manufacture, vanished almost overnight in places like Britain. Tintagel in Cornwall, as well as several other centres, managed to obtain supplies of Mediterranean luxury goods well into the 6th century, but then lost their trading links. Administrative, educational and military infrastructure quickly vanished, and the loss of the established *cursus honorum* led to the collapse of the schools and to a rise of illiteracy even among the leadership. The careers of Cassiodorus (died c. 585) at the beginning of this period and of Alcuin of York (died 804) at its close were founded alike on their valued literacy. For the formerly Roman area, there was another 20 per cent decline in population between 400 and 600, or a one-third decline for 150–600.[11] In the 8th century, the volume of trade reached its lowest level. The very small number of shipwrecks found that dated from the 8th century supports this (which represents less than 2 per cent of the number of shipwrecks dated from the 1st century). There was also reforestation and a retreat of agriculture centred around 500.

The Romans had practiced two-field agriculture, with a crop grown in one field and the other left fallow and ploughed under to eliminate weeds. Systematic agriculture largely disappeared and yields declined. It is estimated that the Plague of Justinian which began in 541 and recurred periodically for 150 years thereafter killed as many as 100 million people across the world.[12][13] Some historians such as Josiah C. Russell (1958) have suggested a total European population loss of 50 to 60 per cent between 541 and 700.[14] After the year 750, major epidemic diseases did not appear again in Europe until the Black Death of the 14th century. The disease smallpox, which was eradicated in the late 20th century, did not definitively enter Western Europe until about 581 when Bishop Gregory of Tours provided an eyewitness account that describes the characteristic findings of smallpox.[15] Waves of epidemics wiped out large rural populations.[16] Most of the details about the epidemics are lost, probably due to the scarcity of surviving written records.

For almost a thousand years, Rome was the most politically important, richest and largest city in Europe.[17] Around 100 AD, it had a population of about 450,000,[18] and declined to a mere 20,000 during the Early Middle Ages, reducing the sprawling city to groups of inhabited buildings interspersed among large areas of ruins and vegetation.

Byzantine Empire[edit]

Main article: Byzantine Empire

Byzantine Empire

Byzantium under the Justinian dynasty

- Under Emperor Justinian (r. 527–565), the Byzantines were able to reestablish Roman rule in Italy and most of North Africa.

- Justinian's conquests
- Eastern Empire

The death of Theodosius I in 395 was followed by the division of the empire between his two sons. The Western Roman Empire disintegrated into a mosaic of warring Germanic kingdoms in the 5th century, effectively making the Eastern Roman Empire in Constantinople the Greek-speaking successor to the classical Roman Empire. To distinguish it from its predominantly Latin-speaking predecessor, historians began referring to the empire as "Byzantine", after the original name of Constantinople, Byzantium. Despite this, the inhabitants of the Byzantine Empire continued to regard themselves as Romans, or *Romaioi*, until the fall of Constantinople to the Ottoman Empire in 1453.

The Eastern Roman or "Byzantine" Empire aimed to retain control of the trade routes between Europe and the Orient, which made the Empire the richest polity in Medieval Europe. Making use of their sophisticated warfare and superior diplomacy, the Byzantines managed to fend off assaults by the migrating barbarians. Their dreams of subduing the Western potentates briefly materialized during the reign of Justinian I in 527–565. Not only did Justinian restore some western territories to the Roman Empire, including Rome and the Italian peninsula itself, but he also codified Roman law (with his codification remaining in force in many areas of Europe until the 19th century) and commissioned the building of the largest and most architecturally advanced edifice of the Early Middle Ages, the Hagia Sophia. However, his reign also saw the outbreak of a bubonic plague pandemic,[19][20] now known retroactively as the Plague of Justinian. The Emperor himself was afflicted, and within the span of less than a year, an estimated 200,000 Constantinopolites—two out of every five city residents—had died of the disease.[21]

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Early_Middle_Ages

war: lavrov on the coming multi-polar world: "Lavrov warned that Russia’s showdown with the West over Ukraine was part of a global policy shift that will evolve over a long period. “The process of forming a multipolar world order will be long; it will take an epoch,” he said. “And we are in the middle of that process now.”

aljazeeradotcom/news/2023/1/18/lavrov-hails-moscow-beijing-ties-accuses-us-of-provocations

war, markets: jan19 Seoul, South Korea: biden visits samsung, South Korea’s biggest conglomerate

“Semiconductors power our economies and enable our modern lives, from our automobiles to our smartphones to medical diagnostic equipment,” Biden said at the factory before touting chips as the next frontier in the alliance between the US and South Korea that dates back to the 1950-1953 Korean War.

“And by uniting our skills and our technological know-how, it allows the production of chips that are critical to both our countries and are essential – essential – sectors of our global economy.”

But several months removed from that visit, the picture of mutually beneficial cooperation presented by Biden is being complicated by US measures to both restore its own manufacturing base and confront China.

Even as Washington tries to recruit Asian allies and partners to join the pushback against Beijing, its turn towards protectionism has caused jitters in the US-friendly chip powerhouses of South Korea and Taiwan, both of which have close economic links to China.

“To a good extent [the US] is very dependent on everybody, [and] everybody is very dependent on China,” G Dan Hutcheson, vice chair of TechInsights Inc., told Al Jazeera, arguing that while these countries may to an extent see each other as competitors for chip supremacy, their economies rely on trade with each other.

There are scenarios where competition over chips could compel countries to seek leverage by withholding exports of other items, such as electronics or pharmaceuticals, thereby causing broad disruptions to global trade and shortages of consumer goods, Hutcheson said, adding: “This could just become really ugly very fast.”

In a meeting with reporters last year, Kyung Kye-hyun, head of Samsung Electronics’ semiconductor business, expressed concern about “difficulties in the long run when we have to put new equipment into our factory in China”. Kyung also said South Korea should seek “understanding” from China, the country’s biggest trading partner

In South Korea, Japan and Taiwan, the US push to hobble China’s tech advancement has presented challenges.

South Korea’s Samsung and SK Hynix, which together lead global production of memory chips, and Taiwan’s TSMC, the

No 1 player in non-memory chips, all operate production facilities in China.

Japan, another US ally and home to some of the world's leading semiconductor materials producers and equipment makers, last year exported more than one-third of its manufacturing equipment to China. In a meeting with reporters last year, Kyung Kye-hyun, head of Samsung Electronics' semiconductor business, expressed concern about "difficulties in the long run when we have to put new equipment into our factory in China".

Kyung also said South Korea should seek "understanding" from China, the country's biggest trading partner, before joining a proposed "Chip 4 alliance" comprising the US, South Korea, Taiwan and Japan.

In August, Biden signed the Chips and Science Act, which highlighted how the US relies on East Asia for 75 percent of its semiconductors.
https://www.aljazeera.com/economy/2023/1/5/us-bid-to-hobble-chinas-chips-spells-friend-south-korea-taiwan?traffic_source=KeepReading

tech: "According to market research firm Gartner, in Q4 2022, Apple's Mac line of desktops and laptops made up just 10.7% of the global market. That's below the likes of Dell at 16.7%, HP at 20.2%, and Lenovo at 24%. "
https://finance.yahoo.com/news/apple-wants-to-control-everything-from-its-chips-to-screens-193041594.html

tech: “The beauty of the Apple model is that they'll continue to make their chips faster than any other hardware company, selling the benefits of speed for decades to come,” Gene Munster, managing partner at Loup Ventures, wrote in an analyst note. “When it comes to retaining customers and growing Mac revenue, speed is the gift that keeps giving.”
https://finance.yahoo.com/news/apple-wants-to-control-everything-from-its-chips-to-screens-193041594.html

war: jan19
lavrov playing into the ukraine being used a pawn narrative--that is really just be coming a fact at this point, and not a narrative--in his recent comments that were reported by state run russian news network, tass, when he is quoted by them saying, " "We often hear assertions from the West that ‘not a word can be said about Ukraine without Ukraine.’ But, in fact the West is making decisions for Ukraine," Lavrov said, speaking at his annual press conference on the results of Russian diplomacy in 2022. "They have already prohibited [Ukrainian President Vladimir] Zelensky from coming to an agreement with Russia in late March. The West decided for Ukraine and made it on behalf of Ukraine without Ukraine," the top

Russian diplomat noted. Speaking about the negotiations in March 2022, when Moscow backed the Kiev-proposed initiative on settling the conflict, Lavrov pointed out that it was the West, which "restrained Ukraine harshly." "Since then, many Western representatives resorted to various tones on numerous occasions saying that it was still too early to get back to negotiations since it [Ukraine] needs to be supplied with more weapons so that it could resume talks from much stronger positions," the Russian minister added."

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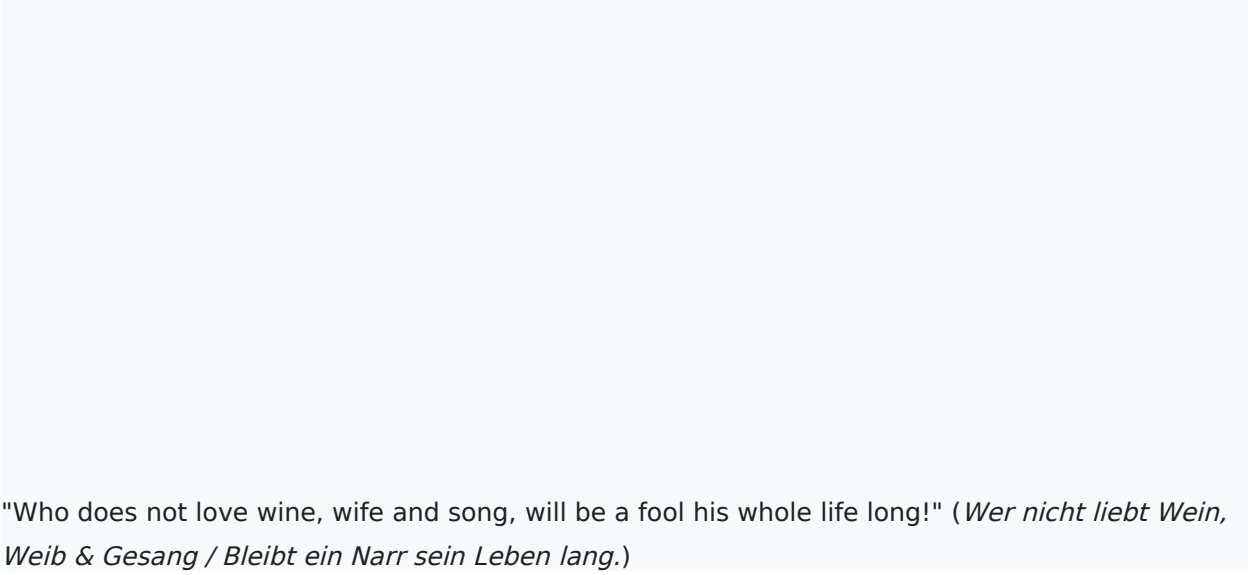
Speaking about the negotiations in March 2022, when Moscow backed the Kiev-proposed initiative on settling the conflict, Lavrov pointed out that it was the West, which "restrained Ukraine harshly."

"Since then, many Western representatives resorted to various tones on numerous occasions saying that it was still too early to get back to negotiations since it [Ukraine] needs to be supplied with more weapons so that it could resume talks from much stronger positions," the Russian minister added.

History: prohibition, (1920-1933): Led by pietistic Protestants, prohibitionists first attempted to end the trade in alcoholic drinks during the 19th century. They aimed to heal what they saw as an ill society beset by alcohol-related problems such as alcoholism, family violence, and saloon-based political corruption. ; By the late 1920s, a new opposition to Prohibition emerged nationwide. Critics attacked the policy as causing crime, lowering local revenues, and imposing "rural" Protestant religious values on "urban" America.; In 1830, on average, Americans consumed 1.7 bottles of hard liquor per week, three times the amount consumed in 2010.[22]

Development of the prohibition movement[edit]

Main articles: Eighteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution and Volstead Act



"Who does not love wine, wife and song, will be a fool his whole life long!" (*Wer nicht liebt Wein, Weib & Gesang / Bleibt ein Narr sein Leben lang.*)

The American Temperance Society (ATS), formed in 1826, helped initiate the first temperance movement and served as a foundation for many later groups. By 1835 the

ATS had reached 1.5 million members, with women constituting 35% to 60% of its chapters.[34]

The Prohibition movement, also known as the dry crusade, continued in the 1840s, spearheaded by pietistic religious denominations, especially the Methodists. The late 19th century saw the temperance movement broaden its focus from abstinence to include all behavior and institutions related to alcohol consumption. Preachers such as Reverend Mark A. Matthews linked liquor-dispensing saloons with political corruption.[35]

Some successes for the movement were achieved in the 1850s, including the Maine law, adopted in 1851, which banned the manufacture and sale of liquor. Before its repeal in 1856, 12 states followed the example set by Maine in total prohibition.[36] The temperance movement lost strength and was marginalized during the American Civil War (1861–1865). Following the war, social moralists turned to other issues, such as Mormon polygamy and the temperance movement.[37][38][39]

The dry crusade was revived by the national Prohibition Party, founded in 1869, and the Woman's Christian Temperance Union (WCTU), founded in 1873. The WCTU advocated the prohibition of alcohol as a method for preventing, through education, abuse from alcoholic husbands.[40] WCTU members believed that if their organization could reach children with its message, it could create a dry sentiment leading to prohibition. Frances Willard, the second president of the WCTU, held that the aims of the organization were to create a "union of women from all denominations, for the purpose of educating the young, forming a better public sentiment, reforming the drinking classes, transforming by the power of Divine grace those who are enslaved by alcohol, and removing the dram-shop from our streets by law".[41] While still denied universal voting privileges, women in the WCTU followed Frances Willard's "Do Everything" doctrine and used temperance as a method of entering into politics and furthering other progressive issues such as prison reform and labor laws.[42]

This 1902 illustration from the *Hawaiian Gazette* newspaper humorously shows the water cure torture used by Anti-Saloon League and WCTU on the brewers of beer.

In 1881 Kansas became the first state to outlaw alcoholic beverages in its Constitution.[43] Arrested over 30 times and fined and jailed on multiple occasions, prohibition activist Carrie Nation attempted to enforce the state's ban on alcohol consumption.[44] She walked into saloons, scolding customers, and used her hatchet to destroy bottles of liquor. Nation recruited ladies into the Carrie Nation Prohibition Group, which she also led. While Nation's vigilante techniques were rare, other activists enforced the dry cause by entering saloons, singing, praying, and urging saloonkeepers to stop selling alcohol.[45] Other dry states, especially those in the South, enacted prohibition legislation, as did individual counties within a state.

The 1800s: When Americans Drank Whiskey Like it was Water

With all of that said, though, there's one aspect of the road to Prohibition that is undeniable, and that's the American appetite for alcohol. In short: We have oftentimes been a nation of drunks, but by today's standards, average alcohol consumption in large parts of the 19th century U.S.A. *was almost beyond rational belief*. You will likely find it hard to accept as a fact just how much booze the average American was consuming in the first half of the 1800's. The figures are almost cartoonishly high, so let's consider how we got there first.

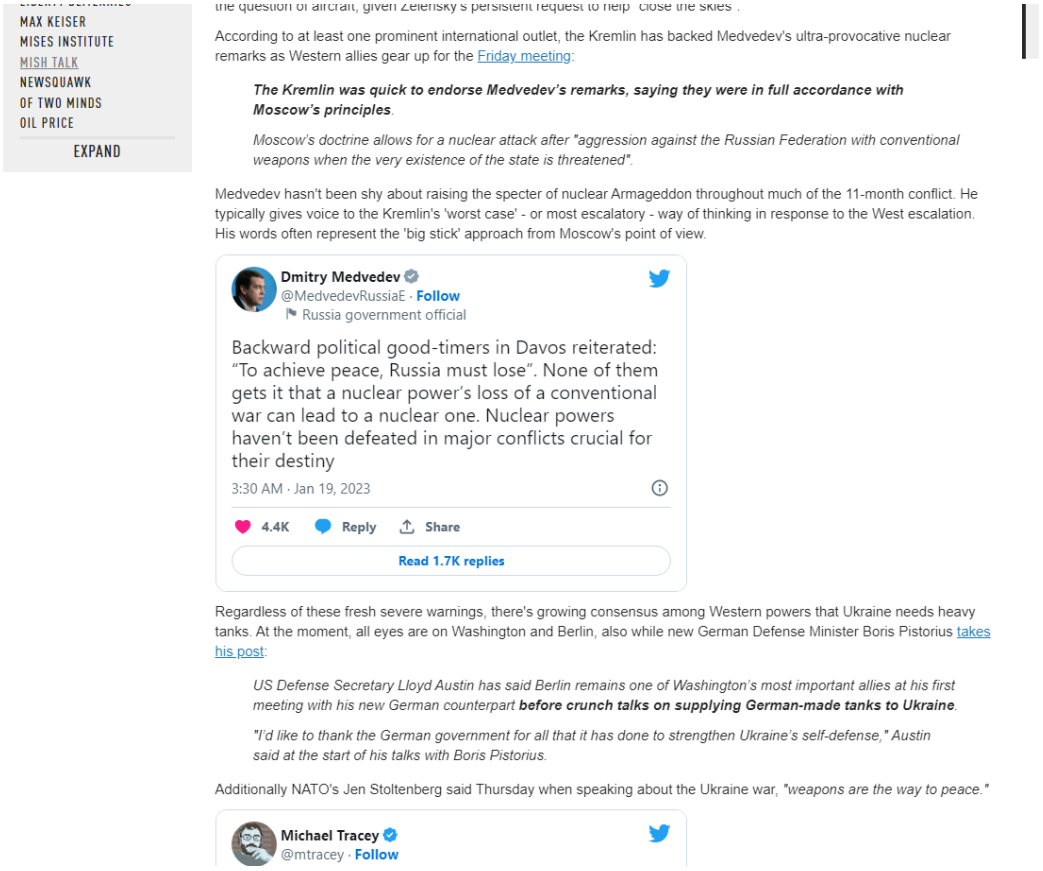
By 1830, alcohol consumption reached its peak at a truly outlandish **7 gallons of ethanol a year** per capita. Via Okrent:

> In modern terms, those seven gallons are the equivalent of 1.7 bottles of a standard 80-proof liquor per person, per week—
> https://www.pastemagazine.com/drink/alcohol-history/the-1800s-when-americans-drank-whiskey-like-it-was/

war: jan19 desparate words from medvedev?:

. **"The defeat of a nuclear power in a conventional war may trigger a nuclear war,"** he began.

"Nuclear powers have never lost major conflicts **on which their fate depends**," the former president, who in prior years had actually been seen as more dovish when compared to Putin, added. Medvedev's comments came in reaction to news of **a major meeting of Western defense leaders set for Friday** at Ramstein Air Base in Germany.


MAX KEISER
MISES INSTITUTE
MISH TALK
NEWSQUAWK
OF TWO MINDS
OIL PRICE
EXPAND
the question of aircraft, given Zelensky's persistent request to help "close the skies".
According to at least one prominent international outlet, the Kremlin has backed Medvedev's ultra-provocative nuclear remarks as Western allies gear up for the Friday meeting:
The Kremlin was quick to endorse Medvedev's remarks, saying they were in full accordance with Moscow's principles.
Moscow's doctrine allows for a nuclear attack after "aggression against the Russian Federation with conventional weapons when the very existence of the state is threatened".
Medvedev hasn't been shy about raising the specter of nuclear Armageddon throughout much of the 11-month conflict. He typically gives voice to the Kremlin's 'worst case' - or most escalatory - way of thinking in response to the West escalation. His words often represent the 'big stick' approach from Moscow's point of view.
Dmitry Medvedev
@MedvedevRussiaE · Follow
Russia government official
Backward political good-timers in Davos reiterated: "To achieve peace, Russia must lose". None of them gets it that a nuclear power's loss of a conventional war can lead to a nuclear one. Nuclear powers haven't been defeated in major conflicts crucial for their destiny
3:30 AM · Jan 19, 2023
4.4K
Reply
Share
Read 1.7K replies
Regardless of these fresh severe warnings, there's growing consensus among Western powers that Ukraine needs heavy tanks. At the moment, all eyes are on Washington and Berlin, also while new German Defense Minister Boris Pistorius takes his post:
US Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin has said Berlin remains one of Washington's most important allies at his first meeting with his new German counterpart before crunch talks on supplying German-made tanks to Ukraine.
"I'd like to thank the German government for all that it has done to strengthen Ukraine's self-defense," Austin said at the start of his talks with Boris Pistorius.
Additionally NATO's Jen Stoltenberg said Thursday when speaking about the Ukraine war, "weapons are the way to peace."
Michael Tracey
@mtracey · Follow

War: jan19 Ukraine’s Zelenskyy invites China’s President Xi for ‘dialogue’; Zelenskyy’s wife, Olena Zelenska, says a letter to Russian President Vladimir Putin’s ally was handed to the Chinese delegation in Davos.

Zelenskyy has repeatedly sought to make contact with Xi since Russia’s invasion of Ukraine in February last year in the hope that Beijing will use its influence over Russian leader Vladimir Putin.

“It was a gesture and invitation to dialogue and I hope very much that there will be a response to this invitation,” Zelenska told reporters.

China and Russia announced a “no limits” partnership in February last year, shortly before Putin ordered his troops into Ukraine.

Beijing has sought to position itself as neutral in the war, while at the same time deepening ties with Moscow, particularly in the energy sector.

War: **Japan says Fukushima water release to start in ‘spring or summer’, Jan.13th**

https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2023/1/13/japan-says-fukushima-water-release-to-start-in-spring-or-summer

More than 1 million tonnes of water are being stored in about 1,000 tanks at the destroyed plant, hampering its decommissioning and in danger of leaking in the event of a major earthquake or tsunami.

The Pacific Island Forum (PIF), a regional bloc of 17 island nations, many of whom are still grappling with the legacy of nuclear testing decades ago, say the release of the water could have a significant effect on fishing grounds that their economies rely on, and where up to half of the world’s tuna is sourced.

War, markets: Russia Was Top Seaborne Oil Supplier to Europe in 2022 Despite Sanctions, Jan 18, 2023

While the European Union's seaborne imports of Russian crude oil declined by just over 12% last year, Russia still enjoyed status as the top seaborne oil supplier to the bloc, despite sanctions.

According to data from maritime sector brokerage firm Banchero Costa, last year saw the EU import 98.8 million tonnes of Russian crude via sea, down from 112.5 million tonnes in 2021 and 128.5 million tonnes in 2019.

For 2022, Russia still accounted for 21.9% of European seaborne imports of Russian crude, followed by the North Sea, which accounted for 17% and North Africa, at 15.4%.

North Sea shipments of oil to Europe were up by 19.2% year-on year, and well above 2019 numbers, while North African shipments of oil to Europe increased by 6%. Shipments from West Africa to Europe were up by 27.5% for 2022. The United States saw a 43.1% increase of crude oil exports to Europe for a record 51.4 million tonnes.

But the biggest surge came from the Arabian Gulf, registering a 76.4% increase year-on-year in 2022, though this is still down from the levels of 2019, while the U.S. exports to Europe were record-breaking.

Overall, Banchero said, citing Refinitiv data, "2022 has turned out to be a very positive year for crude oil trade, despite the surging oil prices and risks of economic recession".

Globally, the data shows an 8.5% increase in total crude oil loadings, year-on-year. Total loadings came in at 2,047.3 million compared to 1,886.3 million for 2021 and 2,110.5 million tonnes for 2019.

Though Russia has seen its exports to the EU decline by over 12% last year, the data shows that overall it saw an increase in exports by 10.3% to 2018.5 million tonnes. That figure is only slightly below 2019 levels.

Likewise, the United States also experienced a surge in exports of crude oil, gaining over 22% in the twelve months of 2022, as did Saudi Arabia, showing an over 17% increase.

This compares to West Africa and the North Sea, both of which saw a decline in oil exports for 2022.

On the demand side of the equation, China's intake of seaborne crude oil overall dropped by 3.6% last year, while India saw the reverse: an 11.7% increase in imports.

War: jan.11th: “We are carrying out NATO’s mission,” Ukrainian Defense Minister Oleksii Reznikov said in an interview. “They aren’t shedding their blood. We’re shedding ours. That’s why they’re required to supply us with weapons.” Repeating a rationale offered by his US sponsors in previous wars, including the invasion of Iraq, Reznikov added that Ukraine “is defending the entire civilized world.”

War: NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg on Wednesday called for a “significant increase” in military aid for Kyiv., recognizes we have reached important crescendo, something I think anybody watching closely can see, jan19

NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg on Wednesday called for a “significant increase” in military aid for Kyiv.

“This is a pivotal moment in the war and the need for a significant increase in support for Ukraine,” the NATO chief told *Reuters* on the sidelines of the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland.

On jan 1st he also said something that sounded counter-intuitive, but gave a nice window into where he stands in terms of aggression

“It may sound like a paradox, but military support for Ukraine is the fastest way to peace,” Stoltenberg told the German news agency *DPA*. “We know that most wars end at the negotiating table – probably this war too – but we know that what Ukraine can achieve in these negotiations depends inextricably on the military situation.”

Clearly on the hawkish end to say the least..

War: jan19

the realities of getting invaded: “Two of my sons work as day labourers, but they don’t make more than 150 Afghanis ($1.68) a day; not even enough to buy food for the day. It has been months since we tasted a fruit or meat,” he said;Climate scientists have attributed the recent weather anomalies to polar vortex disruptions

Located at the foot of the formidable Hindu Kush mountains, their town is no stranger to harsh winter. In fact, the heavy snow replenishes groundwater and can be beneficial to agriculture.

“We are happy it is snowing, it is a gift from God and it will be useful for wells and farmers, but we are very concerned about how will we stay warm as the temperatures fall,” Shahin says. “We can barely afford to buy food,” he added solemnly.

“If we buy coal and wood, then we won’t be able to buy food. The money my husband sends us is not sufficient to even cover basic requirements,” Maryam told Al Jazeera. Her husband works in a neighbouring country.

As the wife of a former soldier with the United States-backed Afghan government, she requested anonymity to avoid Taliban reprisal.

“After the fall of Kabul, my husband was hunted by the Taliban and had to escape to a neighbouring country. For a while, we survived on his savings, and then on charity. He sends us money when he has work, but we can’t afford a bukhari this winter,” she said.

Climate scientists have attributed the recent weather anomalies to polar vortex disruptions, “as a result of which, strong arctic winds flow much farther from the North Pole and bring masses of cold air to our region,” explained Najibullah Sadid, an Afghan climate expert and associate researcher at the University of Stuttgart.

He shared that prediction models estimated that the cold wave would last until the end of January or the first week of February, before the weather returns to average conditions.

“Afghanistan, like other countries, is witnessing a rise in the number of extreme events. This is much to do with climate change as more sun energy is observed by the Earth’s atmosphere that in turn increases the dynamic of atmospheric activities such as heatwaves, rapid rains, etc,” he said, adding that a lack of preparedness for such events could have disastrous consequences for Afghans.

Suspension of NGO services

International sanctions and banking restrictions imposed on the Taliban when they took over the country in August 2021 have triggered an economic crisis, propelling an already distressed country into catastrophe.

aljazeeradotcom/news/2023/1/17/afghans-reel-from-exceptionally-cold-winter

history, rome: more on roman roads

crisis of the third century: Marcus Aurelius Mausaeus Carausius (died 293) was a military commander of the Roman Empire in the 3rd century. He was a Menapian from Belgic Gaul, [1] who usurped power in 286, during the Carausian Revolt, declaring himself emperor in Britain and northern Gaul (Imperium Britanniarum).

Marcus Aurelius Mausaeus Carausius (died 293) was a military commander of the Roman Empire in the 3rd century. He was a Menapian from Belgic Gaul,[1] who usurped power in 286, during the Carausian Revolt, declaring himself emperor in Britain and northern Gaul (Imperium Britanniarum). He did this only 13 years after the Gallic Empire of the Batavian Postumus was ended in 273. He held power for seven years, fashioning the name "Emperor of the North" for himself, before being assassinated by his finance minister Allectus.

gaul below

Conquest by Rome[edit]

Main article: Gallic Wars

Gauls in Rome

The Roman proconsul and general Julius Caesar pushed his army into Gaul in 58 BC, ostensibly to assist Rome's Gaullish allies against the migrating Helvetii. With the help of various Gallic clans (e.g. the Aedui) he managed to conquer nearly all of Gaul. While their military was just as strong as the Romans', the internal division between the Gallic tribes guaranteed an easy victory for Caesar, and Vercingetorix's attempt to unite the Gauls against Roman invasion came too late.[24][25] Julius Caesar was checked by Vercingetorix at a siege of Gergovia, a fortified town in the center of Gaul. Caesar's alliances with many Gallic clans broke. Even the Aedui, their most faithful supporters, threw in their lot with the Arverni but the ever-loyal Remi (best known for its cavalry) and Lingones sent troops to support Caesar. The Germani of the Ubii also sent cavalry, which Caesar equipped with Remi horses. Caesar captured Vercingetorix in the Battle of Alesia, which ended the majority of Gallic resistance to Rome.

As many as a million people (probably 1 in 5 of the Gauls) died, another million were enslaved,[26] 300 clans were subjugated and 800 cities were destroyed during the Gallic Wars.[27] The entire population of the city of Avaricum (Bourges) (40,000 in all) were slaughtered.[28] Before Julius Caesar's campaign against the Helvetii (Switzerland), the Helvetians had numbered 263,000, but afterwards only 100,000 remained, most of whom Caesar took as slaves.[29]

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gaul

The Roman Crisis of the Third Century continued as the Emperor Valerian was defeated and captured by the Sasanian Empire of Persia in the Battle of Edessa, together with a large part of the Roman field army in the east
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gallic_Empire

. In 2005, the remnants of the Upper Germanic & Rhaetian Limes were inscribed on the List of UNESCO World Heritage Sites as *Frontiers of the Roman Empire*.[1] In 2021, the Lower Germanic Limes were separately inscribed on the World Heritage List.[2] The Saalburg is a reconstructed fortification and museum of the Limes near Frankfurt.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Limes_Germanicus

Marcus Aurelius Mausaeus Carausius (died 293) was a military commander of the Roman Empire in the 3rd century. He was a Menapian from Belgic Gaul,[1] who usurped power in 286, during the Carausian Revolt, declaring himself emperor in Britain and northern Gaul (Imperium Britanniarum). He did this only 13 years after the Gallic Empire of the Batavian Postumus was ended in 273. He held power for seven years, fashioning the name "Emperor of the North" for himself, before being assassinated by his finance minister Allectus.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Carausius

Britannic Empire[edit]

Having warded off a threat to his power, Carausius began to entertain visions of legitimacy and official recognition. He minted his own coins and brought their value into

line with Roman issues as well as acknowledging and honouring Maximian and then Diocletian. This suggests that he would have been very willing to participate in a rapprochement, if the others had agreed. He appears to have appealed to native British dissatisfaction with Roman rule: he issued coins with legends such as *Restitutor Britanniae* (Restorer of Britain) and *Genius Britanniae* (Spirit of Britain). Previously, Britain had been part of the Gallic Empire established by Postumus in 260, which had also included Gaul and Hispania and had only been restored by Aurelian in 274. A milestone from Carlisle with his name on it suggests that the whole of Roman Britain was in Carausius' grasp.[7]

Recovery of the Roman Empire[edit]

In 293 Constantius Chlorus, now the western Caesar, isolated Carausius by retaking the territory he held in Gaul. Constantius next besieged the port of Bononia, building a mole across the harbour mouth to prevent the rebels from escaping by sea and ensure they could not receive maritime aid, and invaded Batavia in the Rhine delta, securing his rear against Carausius's Frankish allies. However, it was impossible to mount an invasion of Britain until a suitable fleet could be built.[8] Carausius, who had been in power for seven years, was assassinated by his subordinate Allectus, who assumed command.[9]

Coin of Constantius Chlorus

Three years later, in 296, the reconquest of Britain began. With Maximian holding the Rhine frontier, Constantius divided his fleet into several divisions. He led one division himself from Bononia; another, sailing from Le Havre, was commanded by Asclepiodotus, prefect of the Praetorian Guard.[10] Allectus stationed his fleet at the Isle of Wight, but fog allowed Asclepiodotus's ships to pass the defenders unseen. Asclepiodotus landed in the vicinity of Southampton and burned his ships. The rebels were forced to retreat from the coast, but in doing so, fell into the hands of another division and were routed. Allectus himself was killed in the battle, having removed all insignia in the hope that his body would not be identified.[11] Archaeology suggests that Calleva Atrebatum (Silchester) was the site of his defeat.[12] A group of Roman troops, who had been separated from the main body by the fog during the channel crossing, caught up with the remnants of Allectus's men, mostly Franks, at Londinium (London), and massacred them.[13] Constantius himself, it seems, did not reach Britain until it was all over, and the panegyrist claims he was welcomed by the Britons as a liberator.[14] At some point following the island's recovery by the Empire, the Diocletian Reforms were introduced: Britain as a whole became the Diocese of the Britains under the administration of the Prefecture of the Gauls based in Augusta Treverorum (Trier) and was divided from two provinces into four or five.[*citation needed*]

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Carausian_revolt

late Empire's 113 provinces were interconnected by 372 great roads comprising more than 400,000 kilometres

The Roman Empire in the time of Hadrian (r. 117–138), showing the network of main Roman roads.

War, markets, jan19 **Europe to Buy Refined Russian Oil from India Because of Sanctions**

investmentwatchblogdotcom/europe-to-buy-refined-russian-oil-from-india-because-of-sanctions/

markets, crypto: **Genesis ‘days away’ from bankruptcy after steep losses-owes 3 Billion jan19**

war, markets: **Uh oh…Ahead of erdogon attack, China is now saying: The US must answer for its oil theft in Syria**

investmentwatchblogdotcom/china-the-us-must-answer-for-its-oil-theft-in-syria/

war: **New Zealand Prime Minister suddenly resigns, in tears, jan19**

Ardern became an inspiration to women around the world after winning the top job in 2017 at the relatively young age of 37.

The following year, she became just the second world leader to give birth while holding office. When she brought her infant daughter to the floor of the UN General Assembly in New York in 2018, it brought smiles to people everywhere.

Fighting back tears, Ardern told reporters in Napier that Feb. 7 will be her last day as prime minister.

"I am entering now my sixth year in office, and for each of those years, I have given my absolute all," she said.

The heated emotions around the coronavirus debate led to a level of vitriol directed at Ardern that was rarely been seen by former New Zealand leaders. This year, Ardern was forced to cancel an annual barbecue she hosts due to security fears.

https://www.cbc.ca/news/world/jacinda-ardern-resigns-1.6718695

war, source: Visualizing The World's Top 25 Fleets Of Combat Tanks

https://www.visualcapitalist.com/top-25-fleets-of-combat-tanks/

war, tech: High-Powered Laser Steers Lightning Bolts For First Time, the first lightning based invention since benjamin franklin in 1750, following an experiment flying a kite with a large metal key during a thunderstorm.

Laser lightning protection could one day guard critical ground-based systems. Franklin's 18th-century innovation has now met 21st-century technology.

https://www.nature.com/articles/s41566-022-01139-z

censorship: **weak leadership forced to include amendment that could institutionalize censorship on social media by holding senior execs personally liable for the distribution of harmful content. Article said amendment could result in situations where it would be considered 'harmful' to distribute videos of migrants crossing into the country, and thus the video would be throttled or removed. This example shocked me, confirming my prior suspicions that they would use the public will to protect children online as a means to censor information that threatens the status quo.**

It's the latest change to a key piece of legislation that has been a long time in the making. As the bill has evolved, it's provoked debate on the best way to keep people – especially children – safe online. There are many critics of the bill – both those who think it is draconian and poses a risk to cybersecurity and freedom of speech, and those who believe it isn't far-reaching enough when it comes to cracking down on content that could pose harm to internet users. It also opens the door to real-world consequences beyond monetary fines.

Social media platforms will be required by law to vet the ages of users and publish risk assessments about the threats their services pose to younger users. How they will verify the ages of users will be a challenge that tech platforms have to figure out an answer to.

A number of new criminal offenses will be introduced under the bill, including the sharing of pornographic deepfakes (digitally generated images of real people), cyberflashing (sending pornographic images without consent) and downblousing (taking and sharing images down women's tops).

The draft text of the bill names UK media watchdog Ofcom as the regulator in charge of holding tech companies accountable.

The bill will give Ofcom the power to fine tech companies £18 million ($22.2 million) or 10% of their annual revenue, whichever is higher, if they fail to remove illegal content. It will also have the power to block sites and services.

According to January's amendment, managers at tech companies will also be liable for failing to protect children from exposure to harmful content. This could lead to prosecution and jail sentences of up to two years.

One major criticism of the Online Safety Bill is that it poses a threat to freedom of expression due to its potential for censoring legal content.

Rights organizations strongly opposed the requirement for tech companies to crack down on content that was harmful but not illegal. An amendment in November 2022 removed mention of "lawful but harmful" content from the text, instead obliging tech companies to introduce more

sophisticated filter systems to protect people from exposure to content that could be deemed harmful. Ofcom will ensure platforms are upholding their terms of service.

Meanwhile, concerns over censorship continue. An amendment to the bill introduced this week would make sharing videos that showed migrants crossing the channel between France and the UK in "a positive light" illegal. Tech companies would be required to proactively prevent users from seeing this content.

There has also been tension between digital rights groups and child safety groups over the topic of encryption. In a letter to the government in November, over 70 organizations, including cybersecurity experts, presented their concerns over the wording of the bill. They were worried that it posed a threat to end-to-end encryption, forcing tech companies to create backdoors that could be exploited by criminals.

Representatives for Meta, Twitter, Google and Pinterest didn't respond to individual requests for comment about their positions on the bill.

Censorship: CGT union "threatened to cut off electricity supplies to lawmakers and billionaires."jan19

Labour Ministry estimates show increasing the retirement age by two years would bring an additional 17.7 billion euros in annual pension contributions -- allowing the pension fund to survive until 2027.

AP reported many forms of transportation are either delayed or halted today.

A majority of trains around France are canceled, including some international connections, according to the SNCF rail authority. About 20% of flights out of Paris' Orly Airport are canceled and airlines are warning of delays.

Bloomberg pointed out energy shipments might be affected.

Fuel deliveries from French refineries, including those owned by TotalEnergies SE and Exxon Mobil Corp., will also be affected by the 24-hour strike. And as many as 70% of nursery and primary school teachers will stay home, closing many schools, according to unions in the education sector.

The planned changes provide that workers must have worked for at least 43 years to be entitled to full pension. For those who do not fulfil that condition, like many women who interrupted their career to raise their children or those who studied for a long time and started working late, the retirement age would remain unchanged at 67.

History, germany: why the central europeans empires lacked overseas colonies: "Unlike their Western European (United Kingdom, Netherland et al.) and Eastern European (Russia) counterparts, the Central European nations never had any notable colonies (either overseas or adjacent) due to their inland location and other factors."

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Central_Europe

Before 1870, the industrialization that had started to develop in Northwestern and Central Europe and the United States did not extend in any significant way to the rest of the world. Even in Eastern Europe, industrialization lagged far behind. Russia, for example, remained largely rural and agricultural, and its autocratic rulers kept the peasants in serfdom.[26] The concept of Central Europe was already known at the beginning of the 19th century,[27] but its real life began in the 20th century and

immediately became an object of intensive interest. However, the very first concept mixed science, politics and economy – it was strictly connected with the intensively growing German economy and its aspirations to dominate a part of European continent called *Mitteleuropa*. The German term denoting Central Europe was so fashionable that other languages started referring to it when indicating territories from Rhine to Vistula, or even Dnieper, and from the Baltic Sea to the Balkans.[28] An example of that-time vision of Central Europe may be seen in Joseph Partsch's book of 1903.[29]

On 21 January 1904, *Mitteleuropäischer Wirtschaftsverein* (Central European Economic Association) was established in Berlin with economic integration of Germany and Austria–Hungary (with eventual extension to Switzerland, Belgium and the Netherlands) as its main aim. Another time, the term Central Europe became connected to the German plans of political, economic and cultural domination.

History, fall of rome, church:
Frankish Empire (Latin: Imperium Francorum), was the largest post-Roman barbarian kingdom in Western Europe. It was ruled by the Franks (a West Germanic people) during late antiquity and the Early Middle Ages. After the Treaty of Verdun in 843, West Francia became the predecessor of France, and East Francia became that of Germany. Francia was among the last surviving Germanic kingdoms from the Migration Period era before its partition in 843.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Migration_Period

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Imperial_Estate

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Imperial_Diet_(Holy_Roman_Empire)

The barbarian invasions began in the late 3rd century

The **Migration Period**, also known as the **Barbarian Invasions**, was a period in European history marked by large-scale migrations that saw the fall of the Western Roman Empire and subsequent settlement of its former territories by various tribes, and the establishment of the post-Roman kingdoms.

History, war: **Black markets**[edit]

See also: Second economy of the Soviet Union

As a result of the deficiencies of the official economy, black markets were created that were often supplied by goods stolen from the public sector.[190][191] The second, "parallel economy" flourished throughout the Bloc because of rising unmet state consumer needs.[192] Black and gray markets for foodstuffs, goods, and cash arose.[192] Goods included household goods, medical supplies, clothes, furniture, cosmetics and toiletries in chronically short supply through official outlets.[188]

Many farmers concealed actual output from purchasing agencies to sell it illicitly to urban consumers.[188] Hard foreign currencies were highly sought after, while highly valued Western items functioned as a medium of exchange or bribery in Stalinist countries, such as in Romania, where Kent cigarettes served as an unofficial extensively used currency to buy goods and services.[193] Some service workers moonlighted illegally providing services directly to customers for payment.[193]

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eastern_Bloc

Germany, holy roman empire, history: Thirty Years War of Central Europe: "While most modern commentators accept differences over religion and Imperial authority were important factors in causing the war, they argue its scope and extent were driven by the contest for European dominance between Habsburg-ruled Spain and Austria, and the French House of Bourbon.[20]" https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thirty_Years%27_War

history, africa: Ethiopia has evidence of written language at a monastery dating back to the year 500

The Derg overthrew the Ethiopian Empire and Emperor Haile Selassie in a coup d'état on 12 September 1974, establishing Ethiopia as a Marxist-Leninist state under a military junta and provisional government.

War, history: The Derg overthrew the Ethiopian Empire and Emperor Haile Selassie in a coup d'état on 12 September 1974, establishing

Ethiopia as a Marxist-Leninist state under a military junta and provisional government.

Markets: U.S. natural gas prices are back to reflecting the domestic supply and demand balances, shaking off – for now – the geopolitical premium that ruled the energy and natural gas markets throughout most of 2022 after the Russian invasion of Ukraine in February., Jan 11, 2023

U.S. natural gas prices are back to reflecting the domestic supply and demand balances, shaking off – for now – the geopolitical premium that ruled the energy and natural gas markets throughout most of 2022 after the Russian invasion of Ukraine in February.

https://oilprice.com/Energy/Gas-Prices/Geopolitical-Risk-Premium-In-US-Gas-Prices-Is-Evaporating.html

crypto, markets: FTX Says $413 Million Worth Of Cryptocurrency Was Stolen From Failed Exchange

censorship, corruption: **Secretive Surveillance Program Captured 150 Million International Money Transfers Spanning 20 Countries: Sen. Wyden (related to "just took the blakc guy's money without any evidence, then didn't give it back....")**

A secretive financial surveillance database established by the Arizona attorney general's office in 2014 **has ballooned into a behemoth tool used by more than 600 law-enforcement entities**, which can search for more than **150 million money transfers** between people in the US and more than 20 countries, according to internal program documents obtained by Sen. Ron Wyden (D-OR).

The database is called TRAC, or Transational Record Analysis Center, and was established as part of a settlement reached with Western Union to combat human trafficking and drug runners from Mexico

What's more, **many of the subpoenas given to TRAC were extremely broad** - often requiring all data on transfers between certain places above the $500 threshold, according to the documents - even in cases where **an American living in a border state sends $500 or more to another American living elsewhere in the country**.

Euronet said it received a subpoena in 2021 demanding that data on some international money transfers be turned over to TRAC. (Photo: Beata Zawrzel/NurPhoto/Getty Images)

Sen. Wyden thinks differently, saying TRAC allows the government to "serve itself an all-you-can-eat buffet of Americans' personal financial data while bypassing the normal protections for Americans' privacy."

*Internal records, including TRAC meeting minutes and copies of 140 subpoenas from the Arizona attorney general, were obtained by the American Civil Liberties Union and reviewed by The Wall Street Journal. They show that **any authorized law-enforcement agency can query the data without a warrant** to examine the transactions of people inside the U.S. for evidence of money laundering and other crimes. One slideshow prepared by a TRAC investigator showed how **the program's data could be used to scan for categories such as "Middle Eastern/Arabic names" in bulk transaction records.** - WSJ*

"**Ordinary people's private financial records are being siphoned indiscriminately into a massive database,** with access given to virtually any cop who wants it," said Nathan Freed Wessler, deputy director of the ACLU's Speech, Privacy and Technology Project. "This program should never have been launched, and **it must be shut down now.**"

The program was established due to lax rules surrounding money-transfer services companies. While banks have to monitor transactions for suspicious activity - and report over $10,000 in cash transactions, companies such as Western Union and MoneyGram don't have to. Now, **customer transactions above $500 are available in the TRAC database**.

What's more, **Wyden uncovered that the federal government has participated in TRAC**, including the Department of Homeland Security's Investigations division, collected around **six million records of money transfers** from Western Union and Maxitransfers since 2019.

"The scope of this surveillance program and federal agencies' role is far greater than initially revealed," said Wyden in a letter asking the DOJ inspector general to investigate the FBI and DEA's involvement with the program.

The US Government used forfeiture during the Prohibition years (1920–1933).[9] Police seized vehicles, equipment, cash and other property from bootleggers.[8] When

Prohibition ended in 1933, much of the forfeiture activity ended as well.[10] Modern forfeiture was an "infrequent resort" until the last few decades.[10]

War on Drugs (1980–present)[edit]

Since 1980, the War on Drugs has led to substantially increased civil forfeiture by federal, state, and local government.[9][11] The market for illegal drugs in the United States is large: the Drug Enforcement Administration estimates the annual profit from selling illegal drugs is $12 billion.[9] However, it has become harder for criminal organizations to launder drug money by means of the financial system; drug cartels have thus preferred bulk cash payments.[12] The initial intent behind increased civil forfeiture was thus to use forfeitures as a weapon against drug kingpins, similarly to how forfeiture was used to fight alcohol trafficking during the Prohibition era.[13]

According to journalist Sarah Stillman, a major turning point in forfeiture activity was the passage of the Comprehensive Crime Control Act of 1984.[14] This law permitted local and federal law enforcement agencies to share seized assets.[10] According to Stillman, civil forfeiture allowed federal and local governments to "extract swift penalties from white-collar criminals and offer restitution to victims of fraud".[10] From 1985 to 1993, authorities confiscated $3 billion of cash and other property based on the federal *Asset Forfeiture Program*, which included both civil and criminal forfeitures.[14] The methods were supported by the Reagan administration as a crime fighting strategy:

It's now possible for a drug dealer to serve time in a forfeiture-financed prison after being arrested by agents driving a forfeiture-provided automobile while working in a forfeiture-funded sting operation.

— *Reagan attorney general Richard Thornburgh in 1989.*[10]

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Civil_forfeiture_in_the_United_States#Legal_origins

After hours of being detained, Johnson returned home the next day - without the money, and without the truck. He was never charged with a crime.

https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-11450893/Arizona-cops-seized-40-000-cash-black-trucking-boss-traveling-buy-new-rig.html

Markets, war: U.S. natural gas prices are back to reflecting the domestic supply and demand balances, shaking off – for now – the geopolitical premium that ruled the energy and natural gas markets throughout most of 2022 after the Russian invasion of Ukraine in February., Jan 11, 2023

U.S. natural gas prices are back to reflecting the domestic supply and demand balances, shaking off – for now – the geopolitical premium that ruled the energy and natural gas markets throughout most of 2022 after the Russian invasion of Ukraine in February.

https://oilprice.com/Energy/Gas-Prices/Geopolitical-Risk-Premium-In-US-Gas-Prices-Is-Evaporating.html

war: jan18 Just more escalation..front page for atw

US, Allies to Ramp Up Military Aid to Ukraine

Gen. Milley Meets Top Ukrainian Commander in Poland

US Sends Artillery Shells Stored in Israel and S. Korea to Ukraine

Kissinger Flips, Says Ukraine Should Join NATO

Ukrainian Volunteers Say Were Unprepared for Battle Around Bakhmut

Zelensky Advisor Quits After Comments on Dnipro Caused Backlash

Saudi Arabia Open to Trading in Currencies Besides Dollar

Saudi Airstrikes Killed at Least 155 Yemeni Civilians in 2022

US, Taiwan Conclude Four Days of Trade Talks in Taipei

War: jan18 they're saying that the death toll for russian troops has risen to 116 000, all due to westerns arms and intelligence..this is the ukrinian military sayings this though, dated today on dp

War, tech: “Future Soldier” is a modernization effort launched in 2020 to achieve the “most radical transformation” of the British Army within 20 years., dp

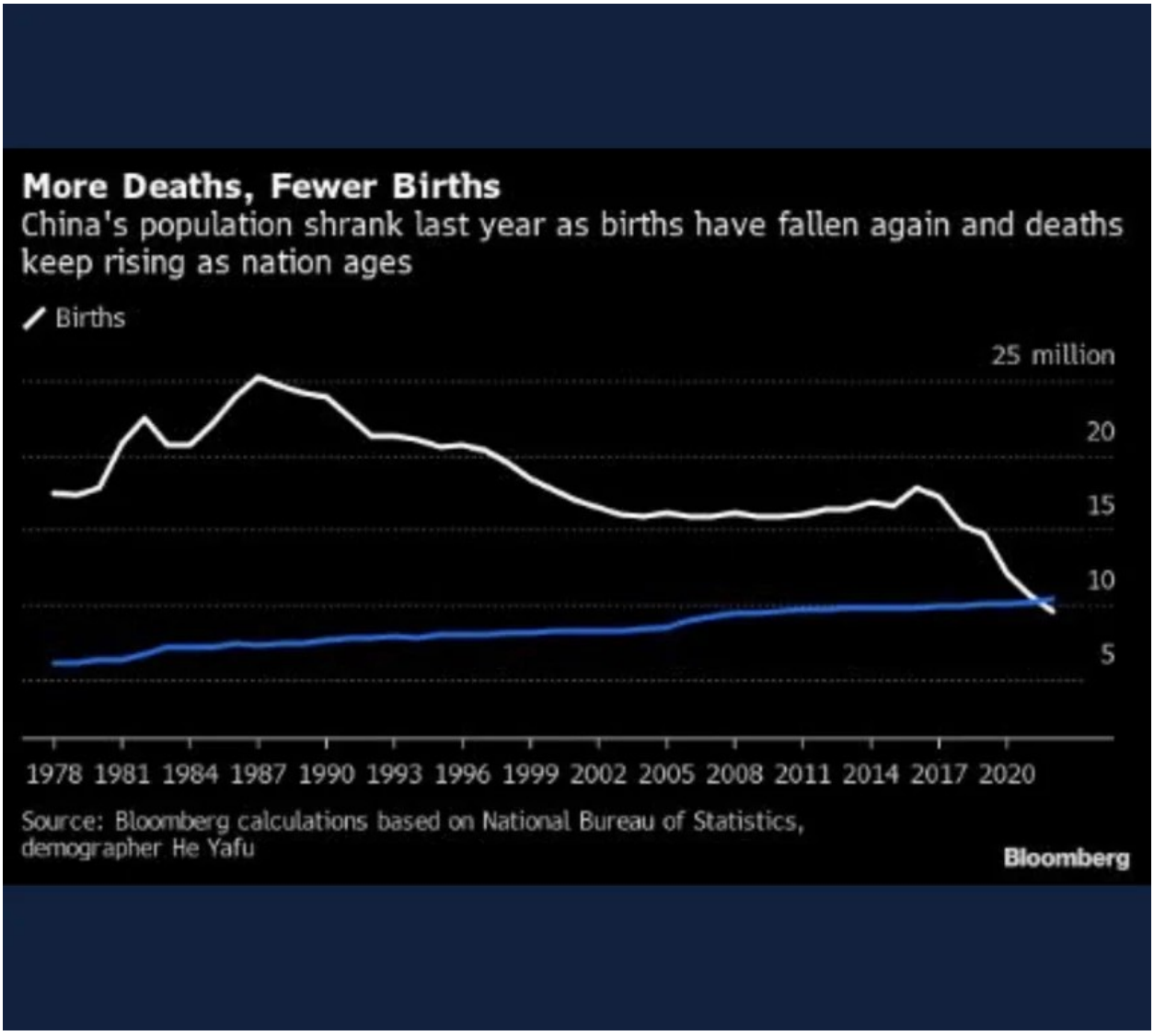
War, Africa, Erdogan: Ankara donates weapons to drc congo..

Turkey’s donation comes less than a month after the UN lifted sanctions on FARDC that required supplier countries to refer to the UN’s sanctions committee on DRC before shipping arms to the DRC. The notification system for sending arms to Congo ended on Tuesday 20 December, and Turkey did not even elaborate on the content of its arms to the public.

War: **Russia blamed Armenia last week for a breakdown in bilateral peace talks with Azerbaijan.jan18**

Vaccine, censorship, china, population, war, history:

China's population shrinks for first time in over 60 years (since 1961)


More Deaths, Fewer Births
China's population shrank last year as births have fallen again and deaths keep rising as nation ages
Births
25 million
20
15
10
5
1978 1981 1984 1987 1990 1993 1996 1999 2002 2005 2008 2011 2014 2017 2020
Source: Bloomberg calculations based on National Bureau of Statistics, demographer He Yafu
Bloomberg

China's population has fallen for the first time since 1961 when the country battled the worst famine in its modern history under Mao Zedong's disastrous agricultural policy.

The **Great Chinese Famine** (Chinese: □□□□□; lit. 'three years of great famine') was a period between 1959 and 1961 in the history of the People's Republic of China (PRC) characterized by widespread famine.[2][3][4][5][6] Some scholars have also included the years 1958 or 1962.[7][8][9][10] It is widely regarded as the deadliest famine and one of the greatest man-made disasters in human history..
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Great_Chinese_Famine

source: https://downdetector.com/ ; tells you when something is down, like a service or website or whatever

downdetector.com/status/zelle/

having the same issue! had a transfer yesterday, woke up to a negative balance and a $10 overdraft fee. i use bank of america and live in nevada. i see a ton of us are having the same issue.

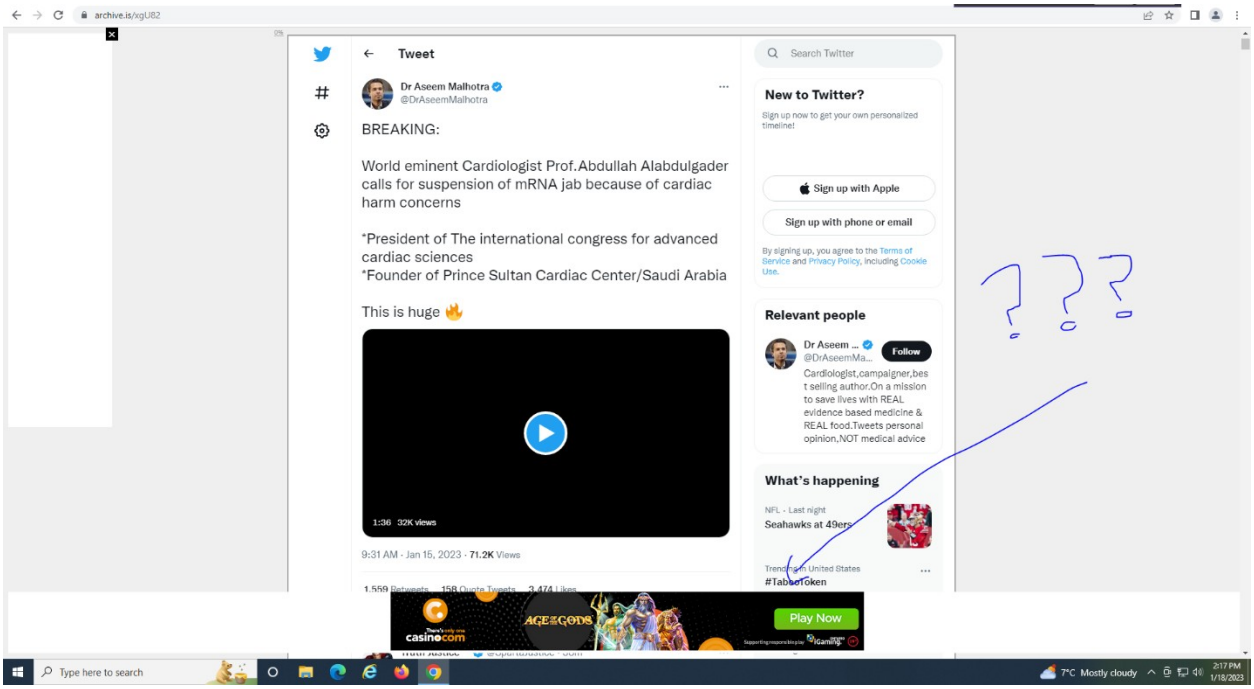
downdetector.com/status/bank-of-america/

Top Heart Surgeon: This Simple Trick Helps Empty Your Bowels Every Morning
SPONSORED CONTENT
Top Heart Surgeon: This Simple Trick Helps Empty Your Bowels Every Morning
By GutHealthWellness.com
I woke up to all of my money gone!!!

Ok, it’s not just me. I was in full panic mode. Money is missing, there are mystery overdraft coverages from my savings. I have repeatedly called to talk to someone and haven;/t been able to. I’ve had an account for over 20 years and this has NEVER happened.

See also The money printer is not going brr. It is going berserk.
They are saying it is a glitch. WTF?

Censorship: removed tweet still available on fake archive (it literally profits off every page on the entire internet--even pages that have bypassed a pay/membership wall)

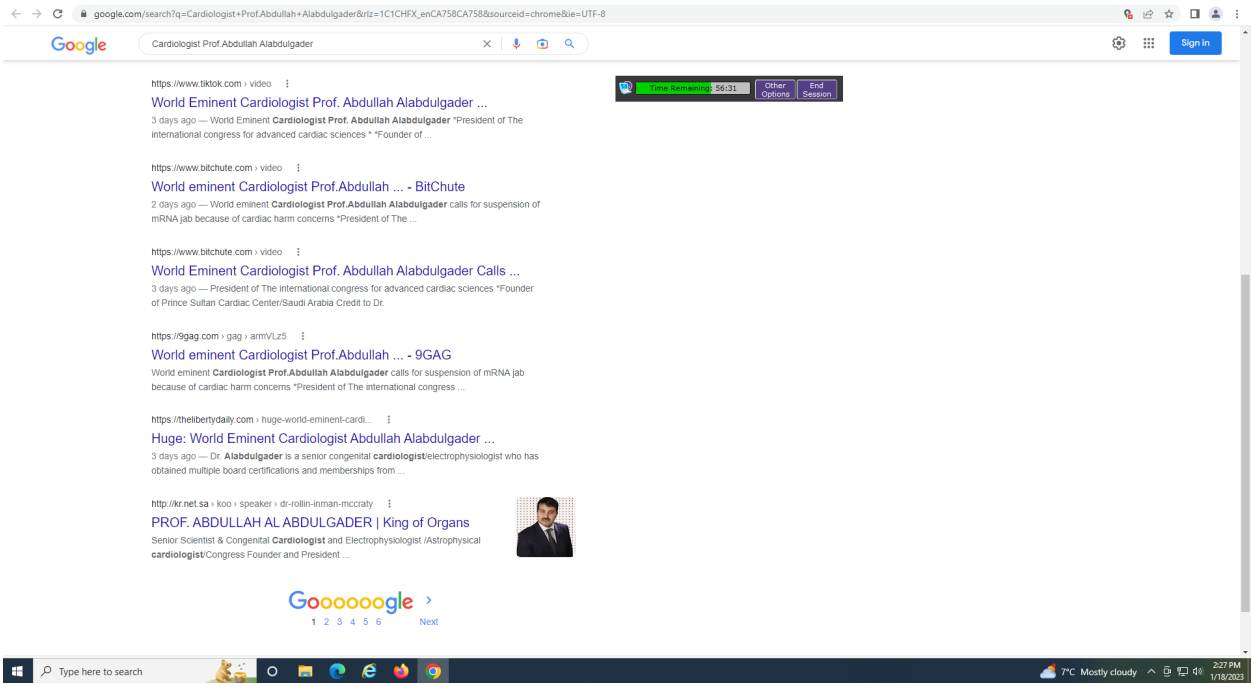

archive.is/xgU82
Tweet
Dr Aseem Malhotra
@DrAseemMalhotra
BREAKING:
World eminent Cardiologist Prof.Abdullah Alabdulgader calls for suspension of mRNA jab because of cardiac harm concerns
*President of The international congress for advanced cardiac sciences
*Founder of Prince Sultan Cardiac Center/Saudi Arabia
This is huge
1:36 32K views
9:31 AM · Jan 15, 2023 · 71.2K Views
Search Twitter
New to Twitter?
Sign up now to get your own personalized timeline!
Sign up with Apple
Sign up with phone or email
By signing up, you agree to the Terms of Service and Privacy Policy, including Cookie Use.
Relevant people
Dr Aseem ...
@DrAseemMa...
Follow
Cardiologist,campaigner,best selling author.On a mission to save lives with REAL evidence based medicine & REAL food.Tweets personal opinion,NOT medical advice
What's happening
NFL · Last night
Seahawks at 49ers
Trending in United States
#TabootOken
Play Now
Type here to search
7°C Mostly cloudy
2:17 PM
1/18/2023

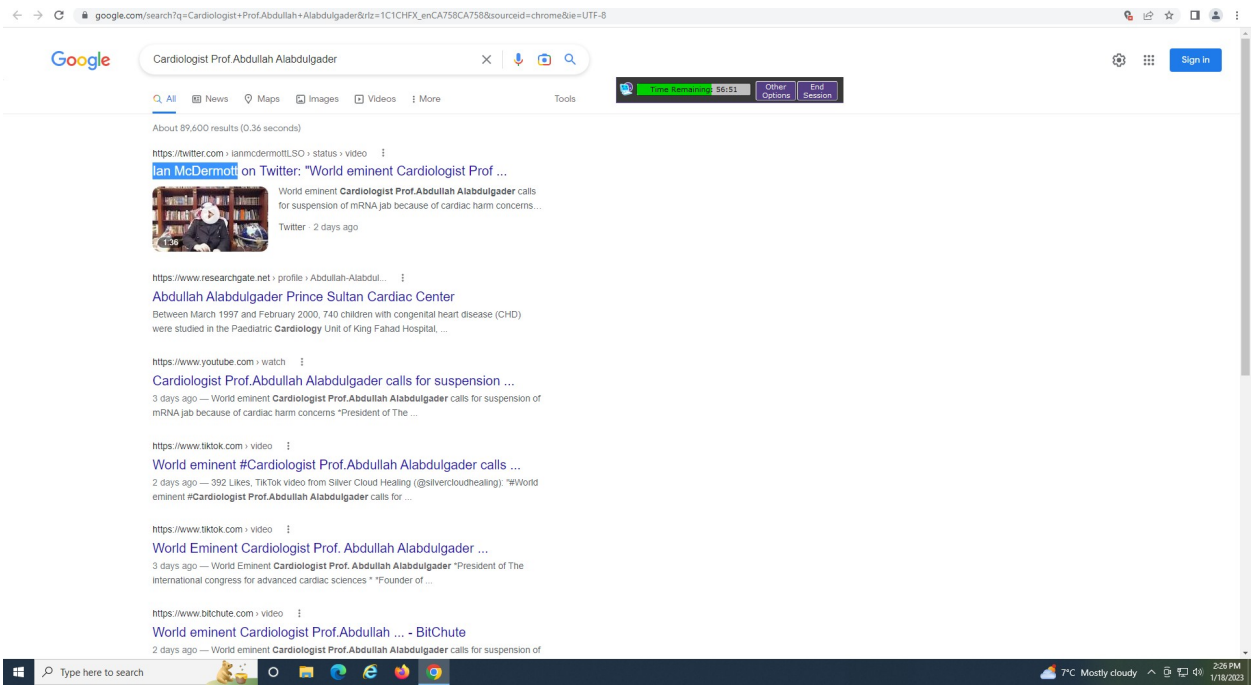
and for anybody who decides to read the comments, they will see a bunch of irrelevent posts or links to half-truths or, just meaningless stuff that takes you nowhere.

My take?

This plays into the anti-vax narrative perfectly before they release the bad one. They WANT people to question them now. It will just make it worse when the inevitable event happens. Saudi Arabia is a strong ally of NATO, and thus shou;ld be expect to be playing into the official narrative, and not against it.

And very strange google page for his name. All tiktok and bitchute..


google.com/search?q=Cardiologist+Prof.Abdullah+Alabdulgader&rlz=1C1CHFX_enCA758CA758&sourceid=chrome&ie=UTF-8
Google
Cardiologist Prof.Abdullah Alabdulgader
Sign in
Time Remaining: 56:31
Other Options
End Session
https://www.tiktok.com › video
World Eminent Cardiologist Prof. Abdullah Alabdulgader ...
3 days ago — World Eminent Cardiologist Prof. Abdullah Alabdulgader *President of The international congress for advanced cardiac sciences * *Founder of ...
https://www.bitchute.com › video
World eminent Cardiologist Prof.Abdullah ... - BitChute
2 days ago — World eminent Cardiologist Prof.Abdullah Alabdulgader calls for suspension of mRNA jab because of cardiac harm concerns *President of The ...
https://www.bitchute.com › video
World Eminent Cardiologist Prof. Abdullah Alabdulgader Calls ...
3 days ago — President of The international congress for advanced cardiac sciences *Founder of Prince Sultan Cardiac Center/Saudi Arabia Credit to Dr.
https://9gag.com › gag › armVLz5
World eminent Cardiologist Prof.Abdullah ... - 9GAG
World eminent Cardiologist Prof.Abdullah Alabdulgader calls for suspension of mRNA jab because of cardiac harm concerns *President of The international congress ...
https://thelibertydaily.com › huge-world-eminent-cardi...
Huge: World Eminent Cardiologist Abdullah Alabdulgader ...
3 days ago — Dr. Alabdulgader is a senior congenital cardiologist/electrophysiologist who has obtained multiple board certifications and memberships from ...
http://kr.net.sa › koo › speaker › dr-rollin-inman-mccraty
PROF. ABDULLAH AL ABDULGADER | King of Organs
Senior Scientist & Congenital Cardiologist and Electrophysiologist /Astrophysical cardiologist/Congress Founder and President ...
Goooooogle
1 2 3 4 5 6 Next
Type here to search
7°C Mostly cloudy
2:27 PM
1/18/2023


google.com/search?q=Cardiologist+Prof.Abdullah+Alabdulgader&rlz=1C1CHFX_enCA758CA758&sourceid=chrome&ie=UTF-8
Google
Cardiologist Prof.Abdullah Alabdulgader
Sign in
Time Remaining: 56:51
Other Options
End Session
All
News
Maps
Images
Videos
More
Tools
About 89,600 results (0.36 seconds)
https://twitter.com › ianmcdermottLSO › status › video
Ian McDermott on Twitter: "World eminent Cardiologist Prof ...
1:36
World eminent Cardiologist Prof.Abdullah Alabdulgader calls for suspension of mRNA jab because of cardiac harm concerns...
Twitter · 2 days ago
https://www.researchgate.net › profile › Abdullah-Alabdul...
Abdullah Alabdulgader Prince Sultan Cardiac Center
Between March 1997 and February 2000, 740 children with congenital heart disease (CHD) were studied in the Paediatric Cardiology Unit of King Fahad Hospital, ...
https://www.youtube.com › watch
Cardiologist Prof.Abdullah Alabdulgader calls for suspension ...
3 days ago — World eminent Cardiologist Prof.Abdullah Alabdulgader calls for suspension of mRNA jab because of cardiac harm concerns *President of The ...
https://www.tiktok.com › video
World eminent #Cardiologist Prof.Abdullah Alabdulgader calls ...
2 days ago — 392 Likes, TikTok video from Silver Cloud Healing (@silvercloudhealing): "#World eminent #Cardiologist Prof.Abdullah Alabdulgader calls for ...
https://www.tiktok.com › video
World Eminent Cardiologist Prof. Abdullah Alabdulgader ...
3 days ago — World Eminent Cardiologist Prof. Abdullah Alabdulgader *President of The international congress for advanced cardiac sciences * *Founder of ...
https://www.bitchute.com › video
World eminent Cardiologist Prof.Abdullah ... - BitChute
2 days ago — World eminent Cardiologist Prof.Abdullah Alabdulgader calls for suspension of
Type here to search
7°C Mostly cloudy
2:28 PM
1/18/2023

Censorship, media: both similar countries, both different immigration policies (sweden vs hungary)

claushetting Retweeted
David Atherton @DaveAtherton20 · 15h
I can't quite put my finger on it.
WHY THE DIFFERENCE?
Sweden
- 236 bombings in 11 months in 2019
- 78 rapes per 100,000 people.
Hungary
- 0 bombings
- 3.9 rapes per 100,000 people.

War: **Kissinger Flips, Says Ukraine Should Join NATO In Davos Speech jan18**

Markets, energy, war: **Pierre Andurand predicting $140 oil in 2023 (highly educated, very smart man in his prime with strong recent and past success; also called 2014 oil collapse by outright going short ahead); Paris-based International Energy Agency says oil demand forcasted to reach record levels due to china reopening jan18**

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pierre_Andurand

FINANCIALS

JANUARY 6, 20157:41 AMUPDATED 8 YEARS AGO

UPDATE 1-Hedge fund manager Andurand strikes gold again by betting on oil crash

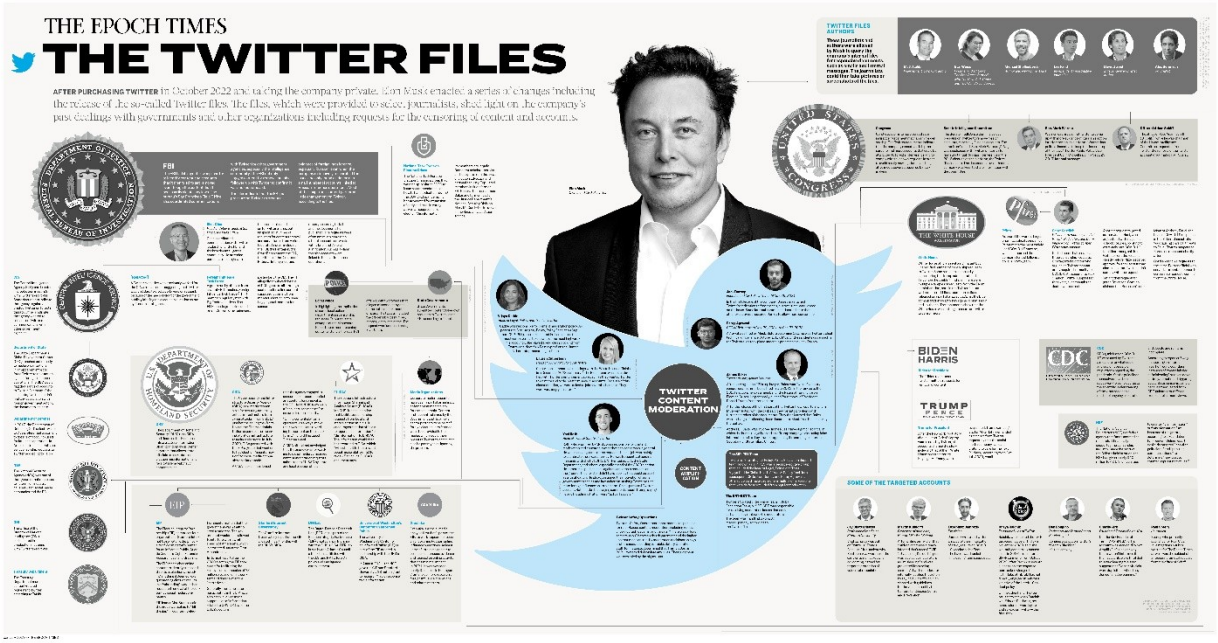
The London-based fund had $400 million of assets under management at the start of this year, the source said. The return of 37.9 percent was net of all management and performance fees. Returns not including performance fees were 47.4 percent.

The fund was up only slightly for the year at the end of October, when Andurand predicted at London's Oil & Money conference that the market could drop to $50 a barrel -- well below the roughly $85 a barrel North Sea Brent was trading at the time.

"Two wild cards dominate the 2023 oil market outlook: Russia and China," the report said, adding that robust demand growth would tighten "the balances as Russian supply slows under the full impact of sanctions."

War, tech: **BUNCH OF NEW AGE ROBOT WEAPONS UNVIELED AT shot SHOW, THE BIGGEST GUN SHOW IN THE WORLD (closed to the public)**

Censorship, war: jan18 **TWITTER FILES INFOGRAPHIC!!! COURTESY, EPOCH TIMES, THIS TIME AND NOT THE USUAL VISUALCAPITALIST**



Media, censorship: **"Brought To Justice": Italian Mafia Boss Arrested At Hospital After Three Decades On The Run, "I filled a cemetery, all by myself," he is said to have once claimed...**

Markets, energy, war, spr: jan18 Crisis Over? Europe's Gas Stocks At Seasonal Record High

LONDON, Jan 17 (Reuters) - Northwest Europe is half-way through the winter heating season and gas inventories are at a record high following an extended period of exceptionally mild temperatures since the middle of December.

Preparation and luck have combined to rescue Europe from potential gas shortages this winter:

- Preparation by policymakers and forward-looking gas markets ensured inventories began the winter season at the one of the highest levels on record.
- Market-driven high prices have significantly reduced gas and electricity consumption by major industrial customers and more modestly by residential and commercial users.
- Luck in the form of exceptionally mild weather has transformed comfortable stocks in mid-December into plentiful inventories by mid-January.

At Frankfurt in Germany, a proxy for the densely populated northwest Europe mega-region, half of winter heating demand occurs on average on or before Jan. 15.

On Jan. 15, inventories across the European Union and the United Kingdom amounted to 922 terawatt-hours (TWh), according to Gas Infrastructure Europe ("Aggregated gas storage inventory", GIE, January 17).

Stocks were 268 TWh (+41% or +2.57 standard deviations) above the prior ten-year average, up from a surplus of 173

TWh (+23% or +1.58 standard deviations) when the warm spell began on Dec. 19 and 92 TWh (+10% or +0.86 standard deviations) at the start of the winter season on Oct. 1.

Chartbook: European gas inventories

Heating demand started this winter close to the long-term average, with an unusually mild October offset by colder-than-normal temperatures in the first part of December.

By Dec. 19, Frankfurt had experienced a total of 675 heating degree days, very close to the long-term average of 682.

Between Dec. 19 and Jan. 15, however, the region experienced an exceptional and extended period of much warmer temperatures that reduced heating demand significantly.

Frankfurt experienced an additional 184 heating degree days, the lowest this century, and compared with a seasonal average of 341.

Cumulative heating demand so far this winter was 20% below the long-term seasonal average by Jan. 15 compared with a 5% deficit by Dec. 19.

As a result of mild weather, gas inventories depleted by just 18 TWh over the 27 days ending on Jan. 15, compared with an average ten-year depletion of 113 TWh.

EMERGENCY OVER

Stocks are now projected to fall to a low of 612 TWh before winter ends, up from a projected low of 518 TWh on Dec. 19 and 440 TWh when the winter season started on Oct. 1.

Inventories are on course to end the winter at the highest level on record, with storage sites still more than 54% full.

Prices have already slumped to redirect more liquefied natural gas (LNG) to other regions of the world, encourage more consumption in Europe and stem inventory accumulation.

Futures prices for deliveries in March 2023 have halved to 56 euros per megawatt-hour from 110 euros on Dec. 19 and 177 euros at the start of winter.

Lower prices will buy back some consumption lost earlier this winter from the most price-sensitive customers directly exposed to wholesale markets, mostly power producers and energy-intensive industrial users.

Gas-fired electricity generators are likely to operate for more hours at the expense of coal-fired and fuel oil-fired competitors, absorbing some of the surplus.

Manufacturers of fertilizer, iron and steel, ceramics, glass and chemicals, as well as non-ferrous smelters, are likely to restart some idled capacity if prices remain lower.

Futures for gas delivered to Northwest Europe are now trading at a discount to gas delivered to Northeast Asia, from a premium over 11 euros per megawatt-hour on Dec. 19 and almost 43 euros at the beginning of winter.

Relatively lower European prices should reduce the incentive to maximise LNG inflows and redirect more gas to importers in East and South Asia, which will also limit the further build up of a surplus in Europe.

Related columns:

- Europe's gas prices slump to moderate storage build (Reuters, Jan. 4)

- Europe should thank mild autumn for averting gas crisis this winter (Reuters, Dec. 16)

- Germany's gas stocks should hold out despite inventory draw (Reuters, Dec. 15)

- Europe's gas stocks comfortable despite cold snap (Reuters, Dec. 14)

- Europe on course to end winter with plenty of gas (Reuters, Nov. 28)

John Kemp is a Reuters market analyst. The views expressed are his own

Markets: **"I Am Taking This Very Seriously": BlackRock's Larry Fink Struggles With "Demonized" ESG Narrative**

Iran, crypto: **referring to Iran's Industry, Mines and Trade Ministry approving the use of crypto for imports in late August.**

referring to Iran's Industry, Mines and Trade Ministry approving the use of crypto for imports in late August.

Iran's Industry, Mines and Trade Ministry has approved the use of cryptocurrency for imports into the country amid ongoing international trade sanctions.

According to local news reports, Trade Minister Reza Fatemi Amin confirmed that detailed regulations have been approved outlining the use of cryptocurrencies for trade and supplying fuel and electricity to Bitcoin

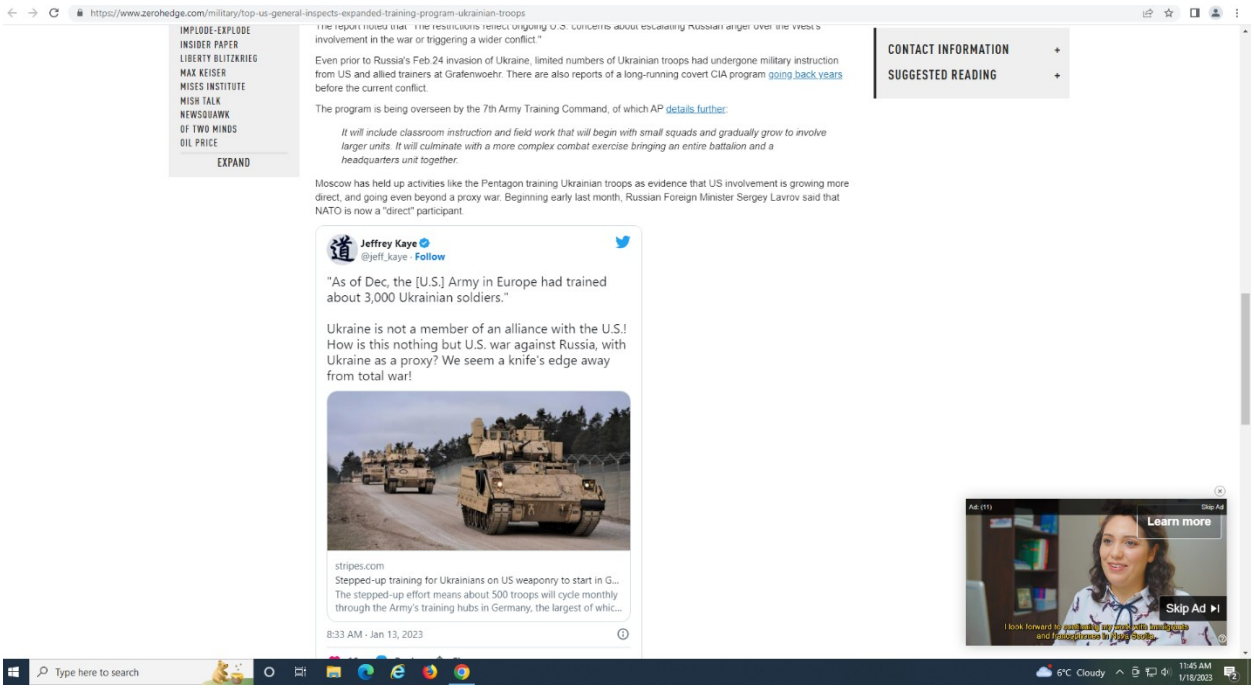
BTC

$20,942

and [crypto miners](#) in the country.

Amin outlined the regulatory change at an automotive industry exhibition on Sunday, just a week after the country had placed a first-ever import order for vehicles to the tune of $10 million, [using cryptocurrency as a payment method](#). The Iranian trade ministry had previously indicated that the use of cryptocurrencies and smart contracts would be widely used in foreign trade by September 2022.

War: jan18 **more U.S. open involvement in war.**


https://www.zerohedge.com/military/top-us-general-inspects-expanded-training-program-ukrainian-troops
IMPLODE-EXPLODE
INSIDER PAPER
LIBERTY BLITZKRIEG
MAX KEISER
MISES INSTITUTE
MISH TALK
NEWSQUAWK
OF TWO MINDS
OIL PRICE
EXPAND
involvement in the war or triggering a wider conflict."
Even prior to Russia's Feb 24 invasion of Ukraine, limited numbers of Ukrainian troops had undergone military instruction from US and allied trainers at Grafenwoehr. There are also reports of a long-running covert CIA program going back years before the current conflict.
The program is being overseen by the 7th Army Training Command, of which AP details further:
It will include classroom instruction and field work that will begin with small squads and gradually grow to involve larger units. It will culminate with a more complex combat exercise bringing an entire battalion and a headquarters unit together.
Moscow has held up activities like the Pentagon training Ukrainian troops as evidence that US involvement is growing more direct, and going even beyond a proxy war. Beginning early last month, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said that NATO is now a "direct" participant.
CONTACT INFORMATION
SUGGESTED READING
Jeffrey Kaye
@jeff_kaye · Follow
"As of Dec, the [U.S.] Army in Europe had trained about 3,000 Ukrainian soldiers."
Ukraine is not a member of an alliance with the U.S.! How is this nothing but U.S. war against Russia, with Ukraine as a proxy? We seem a knife's edge away from total war!
stripes.com
Stepped-up training for Ukrainians on US weaponry to start in G...
The stepped-up effort means about 500 troops will cycle monthly through the Army's training hubs in Germany, the largest of whic...
8:33 AM · Jan 13, 2023
Learn more
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6°C Cloudy
11:45 AM
1/18/2023

"This is not a run of the mill rotation," Milley told commanders in a briefing during the visit. "This is one of those moments in time where if you want to make a difference, this is it."

But the *Associated Press* still confirmed severe reporting restrictions meant to safeguard the identities of the personnel present: "The reporters were allowed to follow Milley and watch his interactions with Ukrainian and U.S. troops and commanders, but were **not allowed to report specific conversations with the Ukraine forces or take any photos or video**."

War: jan18 **russia's statement about attacking decision making centers seems to be materializing: "government officials killed were Interior Minister Denis Monastyrsky, First Deputy Minister Yevheniy Yenin and State Secretary Yuriy Lubkovychis, according to confirmation by government statements. Monastyrsky's death marks the highest profile Ukrainian casualty since the Russian invasion began." many casualities died as well, but this is just the norm now in the ukraine, which is projected to be turned into ruble if the war conitnues on unabated**

War, markets: **US Producer Prices Plunge Most Since COVID Lockdowns jan18**

War: jan18 Pentagon Forced To Tap Unreported Ammo Stockpile In Israel To Support Ukraine

Markets, inflation: jan18 **Prices Will Keep Rising Despite 'Peak Inflation' Chatter, Warns Unilever CEO**

Markets, tech: Microsoft CEO Confirms 10,000 Job Cuts As Tech Layoffs Intensify jan18

Censorship: Report Says 500 Advertisers Paused Spending At Twitter, Daily Revenue Plunges 40% jan18

Markets, fed, inflation, war: **bullard implies 'pivot city' being medium-term future (next 2-3 years). "Pivot city" just a catchphrase for the fed facing a future where unprecedented unforeseen circumstances force them to change direction. "Bullard Repeats Rates "Almost" In Restrictive Territory, Helps Push Risk To Session Highs" (5% rates were crazy, and might not work, hence fed might be forced to change its mind, or 'pivot', again, and even maybe again, and again, resulting in this last fed up looking rates chart, but maybe that wouldn't work...) Might only be able to pivot one more time before it loses credibility in the eyes of the public**

“We’re almost into a zone that we could call restrictive - we’re not quite there yet,” Bullard said Wednesday in an online Wall Street Journal interview. Officials

want to ensure inflation will come down on a steady path to the 2% target. “We don’t want to waiver on that,” he said. Jan18

Germany, fall of rome, history: **In Italy, the Ostrogoths led by Theodoric the Great killed and replaced Odoacer, a Germanic soldier, erstwhile-leader of the foederati in Northern Italy, and the de facto ruler of Italy, who had deposed the last emperor of the Western Roman Empire, Romulus Augustulus, in 476.**
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ostrogothic_Kingdom

Germany, fall of rome, history: **start here to learn the truth about germany: the germanic tribes, wiki**
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Germanic_peoples

history, holy roman empire, church: **more on papal states**
https://www.thoughtco.com/the-papal-states-1789449#:~:text=The%20Papal%20States%20were%20territories,geographical%20boundaries%20of%20the%20region

In 751 the Merovingian dynasty which had ruled the Germanic Franks was overthrown with the consent of the Papacy and the aristocracy, and Pepin the Short, son of Martel, was crowned King of the Franks.

Holy roman empire, history, church: **the donation of constantine: more sick lies embedded at key junctures in history, those sort of crucible moments which form the foundation of .....everything**

The text is purportedly a decree of Roman Emperor Constantine I, dated 30 March—a year mistakenly said to be both that of his fourth consulate (315) and that of the consulate of Gallicanus (317).[4] In it "Constantine" professes Christianity (*confessio*) and entitles to Pope Sylvester several imperial insignia and privileges (*donatio*), as well as the Lateran Palace. Rome, the rest of Italy, and the western provinces of the empire are made over to the papacy.[5]

The text recounts a narrative founded on the 5th-century hagiography the *Acts of Sylvester*. This fictitious tale describes the sainted Pope Sylvester's rescue of the Romans from the depredations of a local dragon and the pontiff's miraculous cure of the emperor's leprosy by the sacrament of baptism.[5] The story was rehearsed by the *Liber Pontificalis*; by the later 8th century the dragon-slayer Sylvester and his apostolic successors were rewarded in the *Donation of Constantine* with temporal powers never in fact exercised by the historical Bishops of Rome under Constantine.

In his gratitude, "Constantine" determined to bestow on the seat of Peter "power, and dignity of glory, vigor, and imperial honor," and "supremacy as well over the four principal sees: Alexandria, Antioch, Jerusalem, and Constantinople, as also over all the churches of God in the whole earth". For the upkeep of the church of Saint Peter and that of Saint Paul, he gave landed estates
"in Judea, Greece, Asia, Thrace, Africa, Italy and the various islands". To Sylvester and his successors he also granted imperial insignia, the tiara, and "the city of Rome, and all the provinces, places and cities of Italy and the western regions".[6][7]

The *Donation* sought reduction in the authority of Constantinople; if Constantine had elevated Sylvester to imperial rank before the 330 inauguration of Constantinople, then Rome's patriarch had a lead of some fifteen years in the contest for primacy among the patriarchates. Implicitly, the papacy asserted its supremacy and prerogative to transfer the imperial seat; the papacy had consented to the *translatio imperii* to Byzantium by Constantine and it could wrest back the authority at will.[5]

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Donation_of_Constantine

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Patrimony_of_Saint_Peter

history, markets, fall of rome: **Carolingian monetary system:currency reform carried out by Emperor Charlemagne around 793/794 was of crucial importance to the medieval monetary systems in what became the Holy Roman Empire and more generally affected European coinage for many centuries.**
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Carolingian_monetary_system

fall of rome, history: Constantine the Great, was Roman emperor from AD 306 to 337, and the first of which to convert to Christianity

war: jan17 **Sweden, Finland Must Send Up to 130 'Terrorists' to Turkey for NATO Bid**
Zelensky Aide Resigns For Saying It Was 'Errant' Anti-Air Missile

Markets, war: **On Jan. 14, NatGas began flowing to Freeport and could reach as much as 69 million cubic feet per day (mmcfd) on Tuesday, Reuters data showed.**

However, Houston-based energy firm Criterion Research had this to say about the Freeport developments:

> *We noted that Freeport LNG began to receive marginal gas over the weekend, with 15-35 Mmcf/d being delivered via Gulf South's Coastal Bend Header Pipeline. This is not the first time we've seen flows of that magnitude, with Freeport flowing similar volumes for two other periods since going offline in June 2022. Freeport representatives have continued to affirm the second half of the January restart timeline, officially laid out in December 2022. However, several outlets, including ours, have doubts about that possibility. Based on the latest imagery of the facility -- Freeport is still missing several key pieces of equipment needed for a restart that could delay initial liquefaction operations into February or March 2023.*

Criterion Research
@PipelineFlows · **Follow**

As many have mentioned, Freeport LNG started to receive gas via the Gulf South Coastal Bend Header this weekend, but it's unclear if they are ready to liquefy gas yet based on the status of onsite repairs. Reach out to info@criterionrsch.com for more details. #natgas #ongt #LNG

Freeport LNG Terminal (in Mmcf/d)	1/11	1/12	1/13	1/14	1/15	1/16	1/1
Coastal Bend Pipeline Reciepts							
from TGP	-	-	-	-	-	-	
from NGPL	-	-	-	-	-	-	
from Gulf South	40	40	40	76	55	76	
from HPL	-	-	-	-	-	-	
from FGT	-	-	-	-	-	-	
from Transco	-	-	-	-	-	-	
from Enterprise	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Net Coastal Bend Pipeline Reciepts	**40**	**40**	**40**	**76**	**55**	**76**	
TETCO via BIG Pipeline	6	12	4	-	-	-	
TETCO via Stratton Ridge	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Coastal Bend Del. To Freeport LNG	-	-	-	35	15	35	
Total Freeport LNG Reciepts	**6**	**12**	**4**	**35**	**15**	**35**	

11:37 AM · Jan 17, 2023

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When will Freeport be fully back in-service? That's a difficult question, but when it does come online, it would be a bullish catalyst for NatGas.

11,497 28

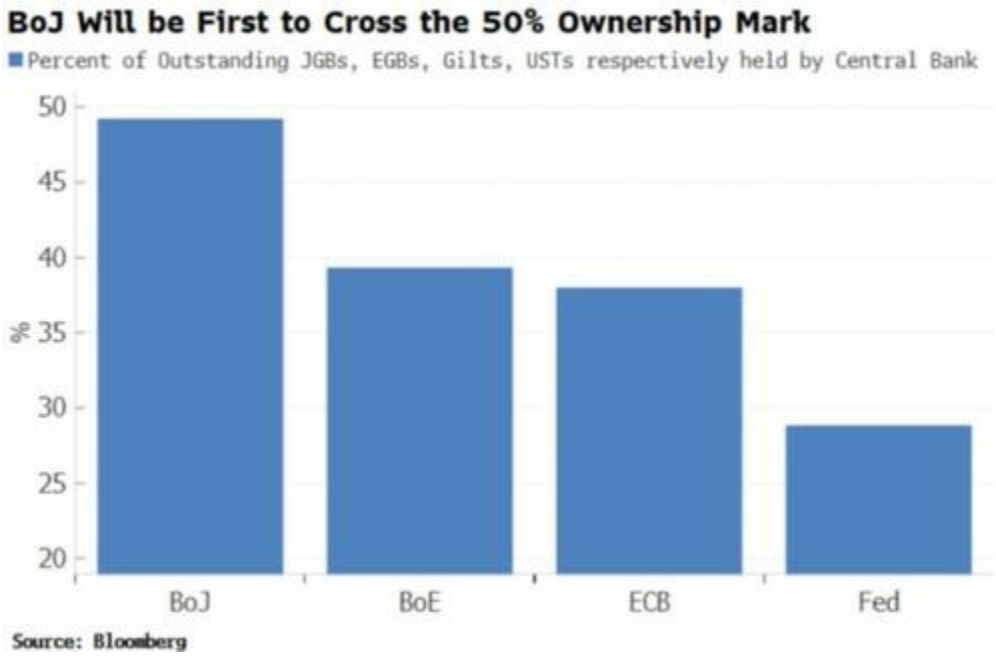
War: jan17 Russian, Belarusian Flags Banned From Australian Open

*“I call on Tennis Australia to **immediately enforce its ‘neutral flag’ policy**,”*

markets, policy: Acting Comptroller of the Currency Michael Hsum (2021, Janet Yellen): "effective management is not infinitely scalable" in reference to too-big-to-fail financial institutations jan17

Markets, war: Jan.17 Japan Bond Market Sets Record for No Trades; Trading of benchmark 10-year bond dries up for four straight sessions as the central bank keeps tight control of yields, longest streak since 1999, BOJH crossed threshold of 50% ownership of the entire jpy bond market on June 27, 2022

As Bloomberg's Simon White said last week, "**we are in uncharted territory as no other major central bank has crossed this threshold before.**"

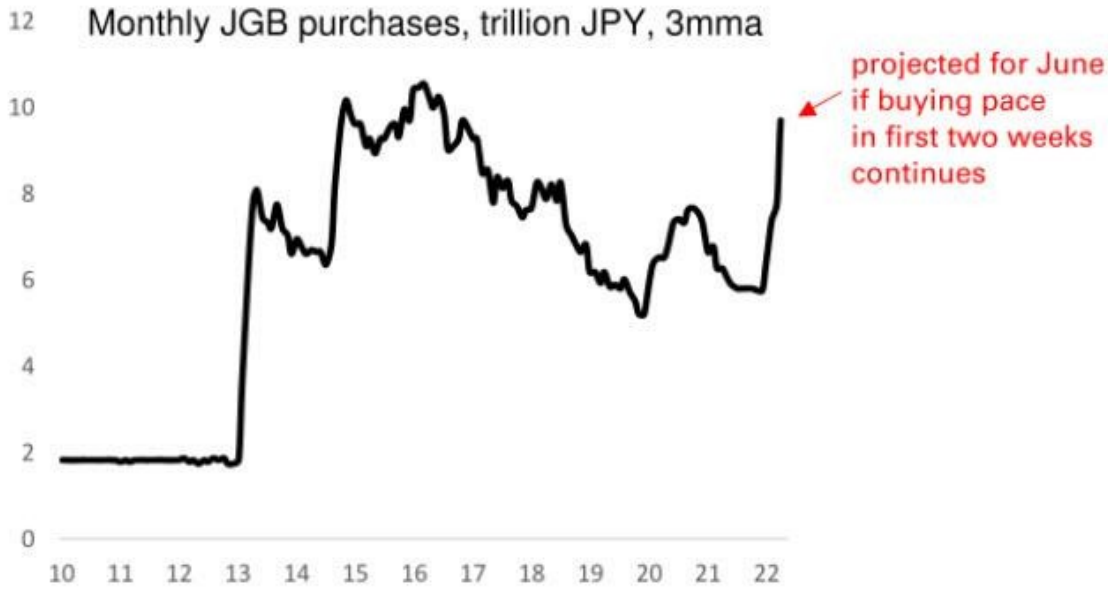


The central bank's JGB holdings were in the 10% range when Gov. Haruhiko Kuroda started the massive monetary easing program in 2013. Its holdings have swelled as the policy meant to bring Japan out of deflation has dragged on.

According to estimates by the Japan Center for Economic Research, the BOJ will need to increase its JGB holdings by 120 trillion yen from the current level of over 500 trillion yen to keep long-term interest rates at or below 0.25%. The central bank's JGB holdings could top 60% of the total in such a scenario.

The BOJ has concentrated on specific JGBs, holding 87.6% of newly issued 10-year JGBs, a benchmark for long-term interest rates.

The Bank of Japan is printing the Fed-equivalent of $300bn a month



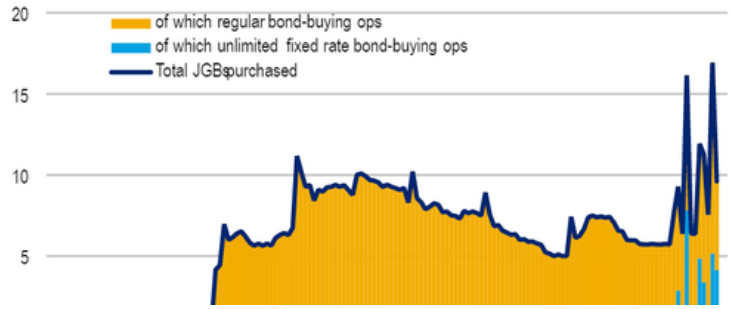
Deutsche Bank, Bloomberg Finance LP

What takes its place and when is the 1 quadrillion yen problem according to Bloomberg's Garfield Reynolds, who goes on to note that Tokyo is going to go on spreading rates and currency market turmoil until a solution of some sort is found.

Meanwhile, the absolutely horrific and frantic pace of recent JGB purchases — some 12t yen in a mere four days — exceeds any single month of buying to date.

The central bank's share of the market likely jumped a full percentage point in January to 53%, and the month is only half over. Hilariously, according to Garfield's calculations, **if the BOJ keeps going like this, then it has some 33 weeks or so left until there are no JGBs left in private hands.**

Exhibit 2: Monthly BoJ bond purchases (JPY trn), Jan '23 figure as of 13 Jan
The BoJ has had to purchase a record amount of bonds since Dec to defend YCC



Church, history, holy roman empire: **roman cathaloic church vs queen of england; In government, Elizabeth was more moderate than her father and half-siblings had been.[3] One of her mottoes was "video et taceo" ("I see and keep silent").[4] In religion, she was relatively tolerant and avoided systematic persecution. After the pope declared her illegitimate in 1570 and released her subjects from obedience to her, several conspiracies threatened her life, all of which were defeated with the help of her ministers' secret service, run by Francis Walsingham. Elizabeth was cautious in foreign affairs, manoeuvring between the major powers of France and Spain. She half-heartedly supported a number of ineffective, poorly resourced military campaigns in the Netherlands, France, and Ireland. By the mid-1580s, England could no longer avoid war with Spain.**

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Elizabeth_I

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Regnans_in_Excelsis

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pope_Gregory_XIII

church, history, holy roman empire: **The Papal States, were a series of territories in the Italian Peninsula under the direct sovereign rule of the pope from 756 until 1870; For over a thousand years popes ruled as sovereign over an amalgam of territories on the Italian peninsula known as the Papal States, from the capital, Rome.[4] Avignon also came under the jurisdiction of the Papal States in 1348.[5]**

For over a thousand years popes ruled as sovereign over an amalgam of territories on the Italian peninsula known as the Papal States, from the capital, Rome.[4] Avignon also came under the jurisdiction of the Papal States in 1348.[5]

The state had its origins in the rise of Christianity throughout Italy, and with it the rising influence of the Christian Church. By the mid-8th century, with the decline of the Byzantine Empire in Italy, the Papacy became effectively sovereign. Several Christian rulers, including the Frankish kings Charlemagne and Pepin the Short, further donated lands to be governed by the Church.[5] During the Renaissance, the papal territory expanded greatly and the pope became one of Italy's most important secular rulers as well as the head of the Church. At their zenith, the Papal States covered most of the modern Italian regions of Lazio (which includes Rome), Marche, Umbria and Romagna, and portions of Emilia. These holdings were considered to be a manifestation of the temporal power of the pope, as opposed to his ecclesiastical primacy.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Papal_States

The **temporal power of the Holy See** designates the political and secular influence of the Holy See, the leading of a state by the pope of the Catholic Church, as distinguished from its spiritual and pastoral activity.

In 751 the Exarchate of Ravenna fell to Lombard King Aistulf. Five years later, Pepin the Short of the Franks defeated the Lombards and granted the lands of the Duchy of Rome as well as territory ceased by the Lombards to the Papacy in what is referred to as the Donation of Pepin, marking the true beginning of the Papal States. The area conferred upon the pope inluded the territory belonging to Ravenna, even cities such as Forlì with their hinterlands, the Lombard conquests in the Romagna and in the Duchy of Spoleto and Benevento, and the Pentapolis (the "five cities" of Rimini, Pesaro, Fano, Senigallia and Ancona). Narni and Ceccano were former papal

territories.[3] effective However, the medieval Popes were unable to exercise effective sovereignty over these extensive and mountainous territories, given the recalcitrance of their vassals.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Temporal_power_of_the_Holy_See

church, history, roman empire: In 751 the Exarchate of Ravenna fell to Lombard King Aistulf. Five years later, Pepin the Short of the Franks defeated the Lombards and granted the lands of the Duchy of Rome as well as territory ceased by the Lombards to the Papacy in what is referred to as the Donation of Pepin, marking the true beginning of the Papal States.

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https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Temporal_power_of_the_Holy_See

church, history, holy roman empire: The 13 May 1871 Italian Law of Guarantees, passed eight months after the capture of Rome, was an attempt to solve the problem by making the pope a subject of the Kingdom of Italy, not an independent sovereign, while guaranteeing him certain honours similar to those given to the king and the right to send and receive ambassadors.

The **Law of Guarantees** (Italian: *Legge delle guarentigie*), sometimes also called the **Law of Papal Guarantees**,[1] was the name given to the law passed by the senate and chamber of the Italian parliament, 13 May, 1871, concerning the prerogatives of the Holy See, and the relations between State and Church in the Kingdom of Italy.

It *guaranteed* sovereign prerogatives to the Roman Pontiff, who had been deprived of the territory of the papal states. The popes refused to accept the law, as it was enacted by a foreign government and could therefore be revoked at will, leaving the popes without a full claim to sovereign status. In response, the popes declared themselves prisoners of the Vatican. The ensuing Roman Question was not resolved until the Lateran Pacts of 1929.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Law_of_Guarantees

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Prisoner_in_the_Vatican

history, church, war, markets: **The Revolutions of 1848: the most widespread revolutionary wave in European history to date; essentially democratic and liberal in nature, with the aim of removing the old monarchical structures and creating independent nation-states, as envisioned by romantic nationalism; initial revolution began in France in February; lasting reforms included the abolition of serfdom in Austria and Hungary, the end of absolute monarchy in Denmark, and the introduction of representative democracy in the Netherlands; Although the United Kingdom didn't see any notable actions at home, in British Ceylon there was a parallel but unsuccessful uprising against British rule known as the Matale Rebellion. The wave of uprisings ended in October 1849.**

The effect of the crisis on Ireland is incomparable to all other places, causing one million deaths,[4] up to two million refugees, and spurring a century-long population decline. Excluding Ireland, the death toll from the crisis is estimated to be in the region of 100,000 people.

Emigration to escape the famine centred mainly on Ireland and the Scottish Highlands. Elsewhere in the United Kingdom and on the continent, conditions were not so harsh as to completely eradicate the basics of survival so as to require mass migration of the sort experienced in Ireland and Scotland. Over 16,500 emigrated from the Scottish Highlands (out of a population affected by famine of no more than 200,000), many

assisted by landlords and the Highland and Island Emigration Society, mainly to North America and Australia, this forming part of the second phase of the Highland Clearances.[5]:481[6]:307 The global consequence of this was the creation of a substantial Irish diaspora.

After the blight, strains originating in the Chiloé Archipelago replaced earlier potatoes of Peruvian origin in Europe.[2]

	Potatoes				Rye	Wheat	Oats
	arable land	consumption	1845 yield	1846 yield			
	(%)	(kg/capita daily)	(% change on normal)				
Belgium	14%	0.5/0.6 kg	−87%	−43%	−50%	−10%	n/a
Denmark	3%	0.2/0.3 kg	−50%	−50%	−20%	−20%	n/a
Sweden	5%	0.5/0.6 kg	−20–25%	−20–25%	−10%	−10%	n/a
France	App. 6%	0.5 kg	−20%	−19%	−20%	−25%	n/a
Württemberg	3–8%	n/a	−55%	−51%	−15%	−24%	n/a
Prussia	11%	1.0/1.1 kg	n/a	−47%	−43%	−43%	n/a
Netherlands	11%	0.7 kg	−71%	−56%	−47%	−6%	n/a
Spain	2%	low	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Highlands of Scotland	n/a	high	n/a	−80%	n/a	n/a	n/a
Ireland	32%	2.1 kg	−30%	−88%	n/a	n/a	−33%
Source: Cormac Ó Gráda et al., 2006[3]							

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Revolutions_of_1848

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/European_Potato_Failure

church, history, war: **Between 1798 and 1814, the revolutionary French government invaded Italy several times and annexed the Papal States (though the papacy was restored between 1800 and 1809). Napoleon Bonaparte abolished the pope's temporal power in 1809, incorporating Rome and Latium into his First French Empire. Pope Pius VII himself was even taken prisoner by Napoleon. However, the pope's temporal power was restored by the Great powers at the conclusion of the Napoleonic Wars in the 1815 Congress of Vienna.**
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Temporal_power_of_the_Holy_See

church, history, war: The secular revolutionary movements of the 1800s posed a serious threat to the pope's temporal power. Avignon was seized by revolutionaries during the French Revolution in 1791, ending 450 years of papal sovereignty there.
The secular revolutionary movements of the 1800s posed a serious threat to the pope's temporal power. Avignon was seized by revolutionaries during the French Revolution in 1791, ending 450 years of papal sovereignty there.

War, Germany, holy roman empire: Italy declared war on Austria in alliance with Prussia in 1866 and received the region of Veneto following their victory. Italian troops entered Rome in 1870, ending more than one thousand years of Papal temporal power. Italy entered into a Triple Alliance with the German Empire and the Austro-Hungarian Empire in 1882, following

strong disagreements with France about their respective colonial expansions.

Italy declared war on Austria in alliance with Prussia in 1866 and received the region of Veneto following their victory. Italian troops entered Rome in 1870, ending more than one thousand years of Papal temporal power. Italy entered into a Triple Alliance with the German Empire and the Austro-Hungarian Empire in 1882, following strong disagreements with France about their respective colonial expansions. Although relations with Berlin became very friendly, the alliance with Vienna remained purely formal, due in part to Italy's desire to acquire Trentino and Trieste from Austria-Hungary. As a result, Italy accepted the British invitation to join the Allied Powers during World War I, as the western powers promised territorial compensation (at the expense of Austria-Hungary) for participation that was more generous than Vienna's offer in exchange for Italian neutrality. Victory in the war gave Italy a permanent seat in the Council of the League of Nations.

Church, history, rome: **(unconfirmed) Jesus' ministry began not too long after fall A.D. 29, and lasted until 43 days after April 3, A.D. 33: about 3 years.**

Rome, church, history: The Gregorian calendar is the calendar used in most parts of the world, was introduced in October 1582 by Pope

There were two reasons to establish the Gregorian calendar. First, the Julian calendar assumed incorrectly that the average solar year is exactly 365.25 days long, an overestimate of a little under one day per century, and thus has a leap year every four years without exception. The Gregorian reform shortened the average (calendar) year by 0.0075 days to stop the drift of the calendar with respect to the equinoxes.[3] Second, in the years since the First Council of Nicaea in AD 325,[b] the excess leap days introduced by the Julian algorithm had caused the calendar to drift such that the (Northern) spring equinox was occurring well before its nominal 21 March date. This date was important to the Christian churches because it is fundamental to the calculation of the date of Easter. To reinstate the association, the reform advanced the date by 10 days:[c] Thursday 4 October 1582 was followed by Friday 15 October 1582.[3] In addition, the reform also altered the lunar cycle used by the Church to calculate the date for Easter, because astronomical new moons were occurring four days before the calculated dates. It is notable that whilst the reform introduced minor changes, the calendar continued to be fundamentally based on the same geocentric theory as its predecessor.[4]

The reform was adopted initially by the Catholic countries of Europe and their overseas possessions. Over the next three centuries, the Protestant and Eastern Orthodox countries also moved to what they called the *Improved calendar*, with Greece being the last European country to adopt the calendar (for civil use only) in 1923.[5] To unambiguously specify a date during the transition period (in contemporary documents or in history texts), both notations were given, tagged as 'Old Style' or 'New Style' as

appropriate. During the 20th century, most non-Western countries also adopted the calendar, at least for civil purposes.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gregorian_calendar

As God commanded Moses, "The first month of the year to you" (Exodus 12:2) was to be Nisan, which corresponded to March/April (just as the vernal equinox on March 25 was the beginning of the new year in the early Roman calendar). A lamb was to be kept "until the fourteenth day of the same month" (Exodus 12:6, Leviticus 23:5, Numbers 28:16) when, that evening, it was to be sacrificed and eaten with bread and bitter herbs (Exodus 12:8), on what then was the fifteenth day of the month.

penelopedotuchicagodotedu/~grout/encyclopaedia_romana/calendar/jesus.html

church, history, rome: The Julian calendar has two types of years: a normal year of 365 days and a leap year of 366 days. They follow a simple cycle of three normal years and one leap year, giving an average year that is 365.25 days long. That is more than the actual solar year value of 365.24219 days (the current value, which varies), which means the Julian calendar gains a day every 128 years.

Church, history, rome: The Julian calendar, proposed by Roman consul Julius Caesar in 46 BC, was a reform of the Roman calendar. It took effect on 1 January 45 BC, calendar became the predominant calendar in the Roman Empire and subsequently most of the Western world for

more than 1,600 years until 1582, when Pope Gregory XIII promulgated a minor modification to reduce the average length of the year from 365.25 days to 365.2425 days and thus corrected the Julian calendar's drift against the solar year. Worldwide adoption of this revised calendar, which became known as the Gregorian calendar, took place over the subsequent centuries, first in Catholic countries and subsequently in Protestant countries of the Western Christian world.

Church, history, rome: During the time of jesus, the days changed at sunset rather than at nighttime, 6 hours after sunset. So 3 o clock was actually only 3 hours from the end of the day during the time of jesus

Daylight hours, however, still were measured from sunrise (6 a.m.). The third hour was 9 a.m.; the sixth hour, 12 noon; and the ninth hour, 3 p.m. An event that occurred just before sunset (the twelfth hour, 6 p.m.) was counted as taking place on that day and, after sunset, the next. In the Jerusalem Talmud, for example, "day and night each are a term, and part of a term is like the whole" (*Shabbat*, IX.3). It is important to remember, too, that days were counted inclusively and that both the first and last day were included in calculating the passage of time.

Tech: 2018: These $10,000 Concrete Homes Are 3D-Printed in Less Than 24 Hours, Once plumbing, electrical and other additional

construction is added, the final housing cost is around $140,000 to $160,000 on average today.

What makes housing so expensive? Labor costs, for one. According to a 2014 Census Bureau survey, the average single-family home takes about six months to construct, and that's a lot of man-hours. A new type of home from Austin, Texas-based startup ICON and the housing nonprofit New Story is hoping to change that. Their homes can be built from the ground up in 12 to 24 hours, and they cost builders just $10,000 to construct, The Verge reports.

The project, which was revealed at this year's SXSW festival in Austin, isn't the first to apply 3D printing to home construction. Moscow, Beijing, and Dubai are all home to structures assembled using the technology. What makes ICON and New Story's buildings remarkable is what they intend to do with them: Within the next 18 months, they plan to set up a community of 100 3D-printed homes for residents of El Salvador. If that venture is successful, the team wants to bring the printer to other places in need of affordable housing, including parts of the U.S.

thezebradotcom/resources/home/3d-printed-homes/

tech: . Called bioprinting, it is considered by many to be the future of medicine. From prostheses to surgical guides to bioprinted organs, it allows caregivers to provide the right care for each patient.
aerospace industry, where many parts, such as turbines, are now 3D printed
https://www.3dnatives.com/en/what-is-additive-manufacturing/#

first 3-d printer created in 1988 by 3-d systems, followed by numerous discoveries, such as the first successful bioprinting project in 2011 with the printing of a kidney, the first 3D printer sent into space, and the first inhabited 3D printed house.
https://www.3dnatives.com/en/3d-technologies/

Invented in 1986 by Charles Hull with the stereolithography (SLA) process, additive manufacturing is now a technology used in many sectors
Invented in 1986 by Charles Hull with the stereolithography (SLA) process, additive manufacturing is now a technology used in many sectors

additive manufacturing is a technological revolution, hailed as part of the fourth industrial revolution

tech: The first fully 3D-printed home in the U.S. was unveiled at Austin's South by Southwest conference in 2018

tech: ICON wants to eventually bring the $10,000 price tag down to $4000. The 3D-printed houses owe their affordability to low labor costs and cheap materials.

Markets, tech, housing: company that recent built canada first and second 3d printed houses say it is still slightly more expensive than building a regular house
ottawadotctvnewsdotca/first-two-story-3d-printed-house-being-built-on-wolfe-island-1.6007960

markets, tech, housing: The 3D printing industry is still small today and uses only a very small number of workers. But its impact on blue-collar jobs will be much more significant than any industrial revolution.
omnifabdotph/blog/3d-printed-houses-what-are-their-pros-and-cons/

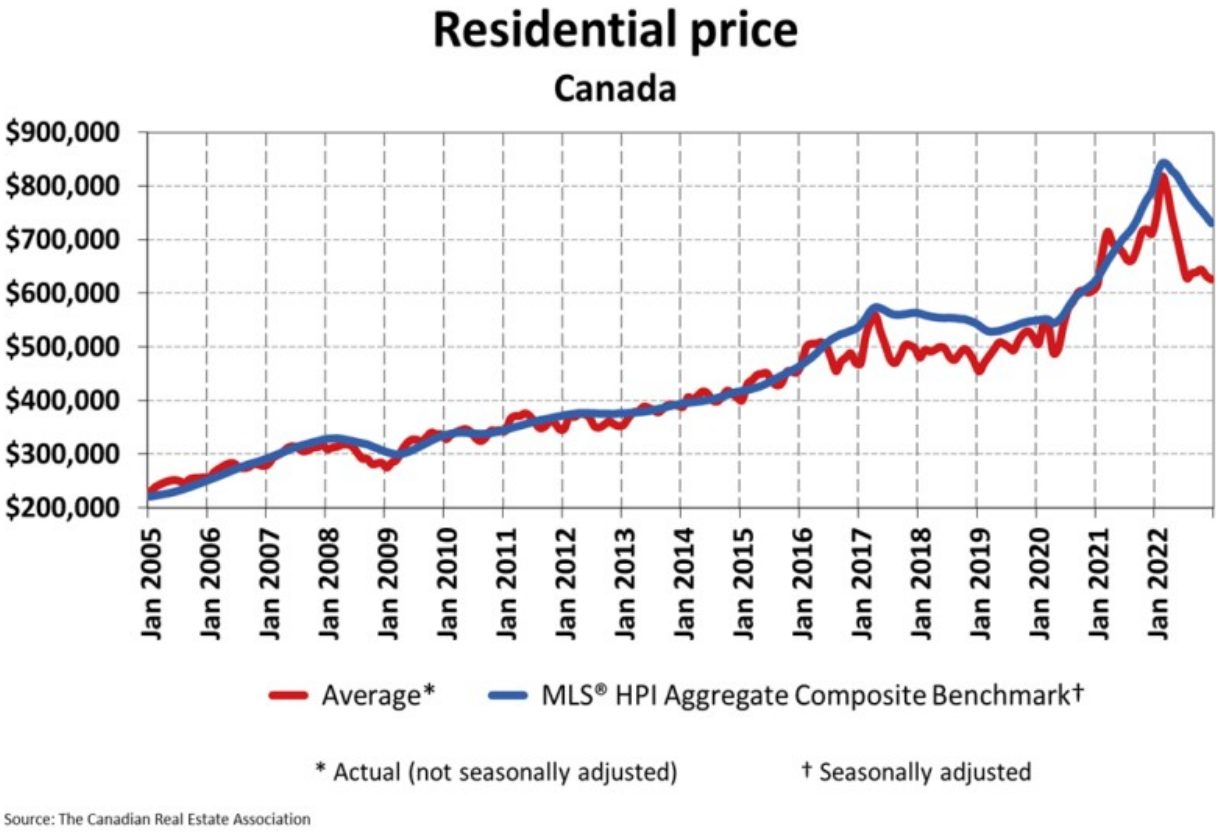
tech, war: Boston Dynamics is Building a Super Robot Army

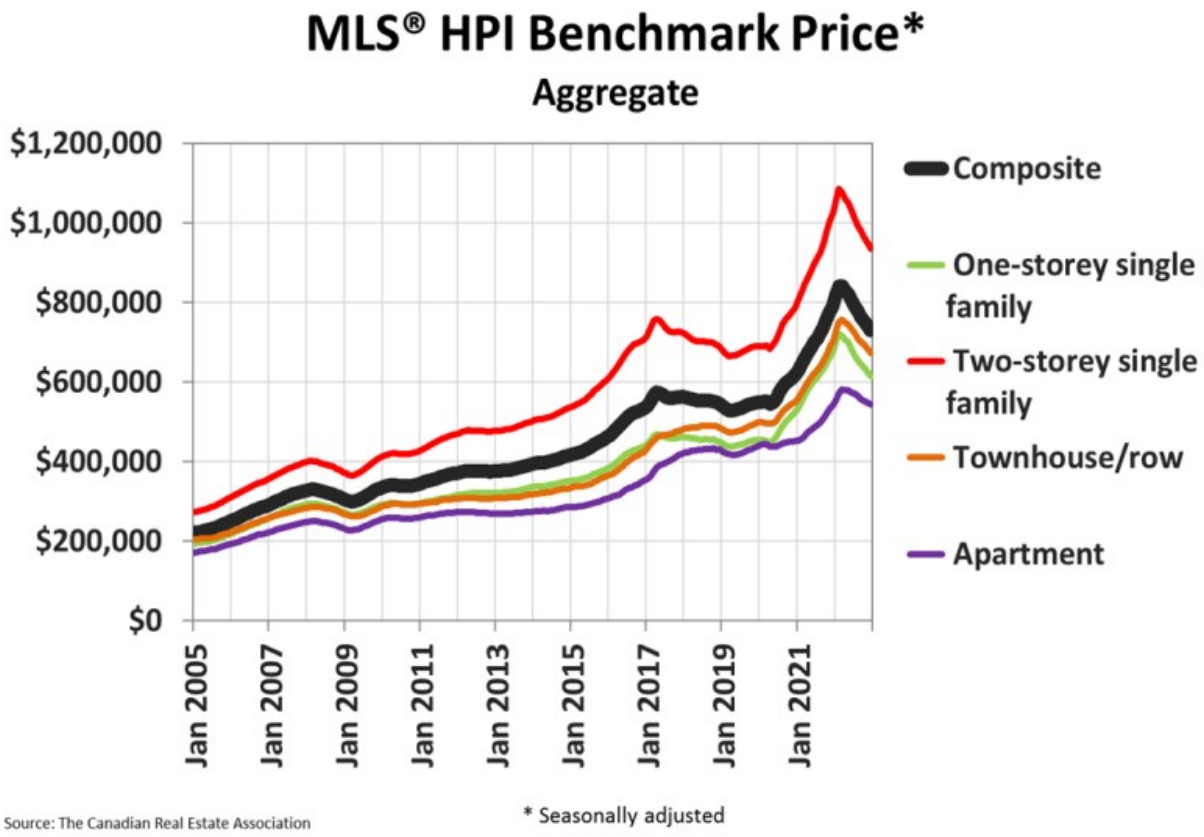
tech, markets, housing: The Top 10 PREFAB HOMES of 2023!!

Tech, markets, housing: **3D-Printed in 24h, no waste.**

markets, housing: **house prices in a nutshell in Canada**

The actual (not seasonally adjusted) national average home price was $626,318 in December 2022, down 12% from the same month last year. The national average price is heavily influenced by sales in Greater Vancouver and the Greater Toronto Area, two of Canada's most active and expensive housing markets. Excluding these two markets from the calculation cuts almost $118,000 from the national average price.





Censorship, government: **is it just this simple... (enthic mixing went too far; should obviously still be allowed, but limited to maintain harmony in the community)**

what this man says is probably true. I've kind of seen what he's talking about and get what he is saying..
investmentwatchblogdotcom/modern-americas-diversity-problem-is-concentrated-almost-entirely-in-the-major-cities/

war: (me talking) jan17 russia threatens europe. any tanks sent now involves you in the war; we have lsot many people, now and throughout history. For those the\at haven't, yet, russia says it will not hesitate to remind those how it feels to be attacked

investmentwatchblogdotcom/russia-this-is-serious/

today, ukraine, antiwar: jan17

Ukraine

- UN Confirms More Than 7,000 Civilian Deaths in Ukraine
- Ukraine Missile Toll Rises to 40 as Russia Denies Attack
- Britain Urges Germany to Permit Supply of Tanks to Ukraine
- Latvia Urges Western Allies to Step Up Military Aid for Ukraine
- Ukraine's Zelensky Calls on OSCE to Do More About Ukrainians Moved to Russia
- British Foreign Minister Seeks to Bolster Ukraine Support on North American Trip
- Poland Expects German Accord for Leopard Tank Deliveries to Ukraine
- Cambodian Experts Begin Training Ukrainian Deminers
- UN Watchdog Optimistic About Ukraine Nuclear Plant Protection

Russia

- Germany Calls for Special Tribunal Against Russia Over Ukraine War
- Putin Slams Growing Western Arms Deliveries to Ukraine
- British Challenger-2 Tanks Sent to Ukraine Will Burn on the Battlefield, Moscow Warns
- Putin and Erdogan Discuss Ukraine Prisoners, Gas and Grain
- India's Oil Imports From Russia Jump 33 Times to Record High

War: jan17 Somali Forces Capture Strategic Coastal Town From Al-Shabaab 11 years after it's capture in 2012

Markets, energy, war: fuel shortages in syria t he worst since the beginning of the civil war, analysts told the wall street journal, Iran sets new $70 limit on shipments to syria, doubling t he previous set price; iran account for more than half of syrias oil consumption

Iran is doubling the price of its oil going to Syria to a market rate of over $70 per barrel and now refuses to ship oil to Damascus on credit, demanding payment in advance, sources with knowledge of the matter told The Wall Street Journal on Sunday.

War: jan17 UN Confirms More Than 7,000 Civilian Deaths in Ukraine

War, Israel, media: "I'm a fascist homophobe, but... I won't stone gays". (I actually kind of understand what he's actually trying to say here, and honestly, I kind of agree. He think homosexuality is sick, but he won't hurt them or block them from working up the ladder like anybody else in his country. At least they don't kill them, like they do in Afghanistan and other muslim countries)

In the recording, Smotrich is reportedly heard saying "I'm a fascist homophobe, but... I won't stone gays".

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's coalition deal, which saw far-right politicians appointed as ministers, has led to concerns of a possible crackdown on LGBTQ and women's rights in Israel, along with a much greater fear of the violent suppression of Palestinians.

War, Africa:
isis in congo now? wha?: " ISIS Claims Church Bombing in East DR Congo; 14 Dead
“Let the Congolese forces know that their continued attacks on the Mujahideen will only bring them more failure and losses,” the group said in its statement.

ike this ere. All you need is the headline(because it tells you what actually happened), and the official statement from the group's head, like sort of a managements discussion, or boards opinion.

War, markets, energy: Spanish Utility Says Europe's Energy Crisis Isn’t Over Yet

Journal, war: jan17

War, journal: sounds like a fabricated story, involves norwegian border with russia--something that's been in the fear wire lately--and unnamed foreigner who's supposedely a 'high-ranking' wagner group member. This would signal to russians that they are free to coem to norway if t hey want to escape putin. In war, everything is lies unles it's an actual recorded event.

High-ranking Wagner Group member seeks asylum in Norway

COPENHAGEN, Denmark (AP) — A Russian man who reportedly is a former high-ranking member of the Russian private military contractor Wagner Group, has sought asylum in Norway, authorities said Monday.

The Norwegian Directorate of Immigration, also known by its Norwegian acronym UDI, confirmed to The Associated Press that Andrey Medvedev has sought shelter in Norway.

“For reasons of security and privacy, the UDI cannot comment further on this matter,” UDI said in an email to the AP.

His Norwegian lawyer, Brynjulf Risnes, confirmed that Medvedev was in Norway and had sought asylum.

The case was handed to the Norwegian immigration police and the man was transferred to Oslo, where he was placed in a center for violators of migration laws. Police in Norway have declined to comment on the case.

Last week, police in Arctic Norway said a person had illegally entered from Russia by crossing the two countries’ border, which is 198 kilometers (123 miles) long.

ADVERTISEMENT

The man, who was only identified by authorities as a foreigner, was detained by border guards and the arrest was undramatic, police said. The man is said to have visited a private house in the border area and asked for help. Police said that they had been notified late Thursday by Russian border guards who discovered traces in the snow that could indicate that someone had crossed the border illegally.

NORWAY

Norway archaeologists find 'world's oldest runestone'

Kristoffersen wins World Cup slalom, completes Norway sweep

Braathen beats boyhood buddy McGrath to win World Cup slalom

Crane crashes onto mall in Norway amid high winds; 1 dead

It is believed that person was identical with Medvedev, who according to the Norwegian news agency NTB on Monday has been on the run since he defected from the Wagner Group on July 6. He reportedly has told a Russian human rights group that he is ready to tell everything he knows about the Wagner Group, its activities and its owner Yevgeny Prigozhin, a millionaire with ties to Russian President Vladimir Putin.

The Wagner Group includes a large number of convicts recruited in Russian prisons who have spearheaded attacks in Ukraine. The group has has become increasingly influential in Africa, where it has been pushing Russian disinformation, building alliances with regimes and gaining access to oil, gas, gold, diamonds and valuable minerals.

Iran, war, sanctions: Hamad bin Jassim warned Saturday that a collapse of international efforts to renew Iran’s 2015 nuclear deal could lead to war in the Gulf region.

Hamad bin Jassim warned Saturday that a collapse of international efforts to renew Iran’s 2015 nuclear deal could lead to war in the Gulf region.

For more than a decade, Israel has threatened to attack its regional enemy's nuclear facilities if it deems world powers' diplomacy with Tehran a dead end.

Bitter foes, a "shadow war" between Israel and Iran has seen a spate of attacks on ships in the Gulf from both sides that they have blamed on each other.

"If parties do not reach a new nuclear deal with Iran, and the United States provides Israel with the weapons it needs, there will be, God forbid, military escalation that may shake security and stability in our region and will have dire economic, political and social consequences," continued bin Jassim on Twitter.

Iran, war, sanctions: jan17**Former US president Donald Trump withdrew from the agreement in 2018 and reimposed crippling economic sanctions on Iran. In return, Iran begun producing uranium enriched to 60 percent.**

War, energy, markets: **Unlike Riyadh, countries like Qatar, Kuwait and Oman have long shared relatively better ties with Tehran.**

War, Israel: jan17 **Israel has conducted hundreds of strikes within Syria in its bid to degrade regime-allied militias and to prevent their development and deployment capacity to attack Israel across the occupied Golan Heights with drones and ballistic missiles.**

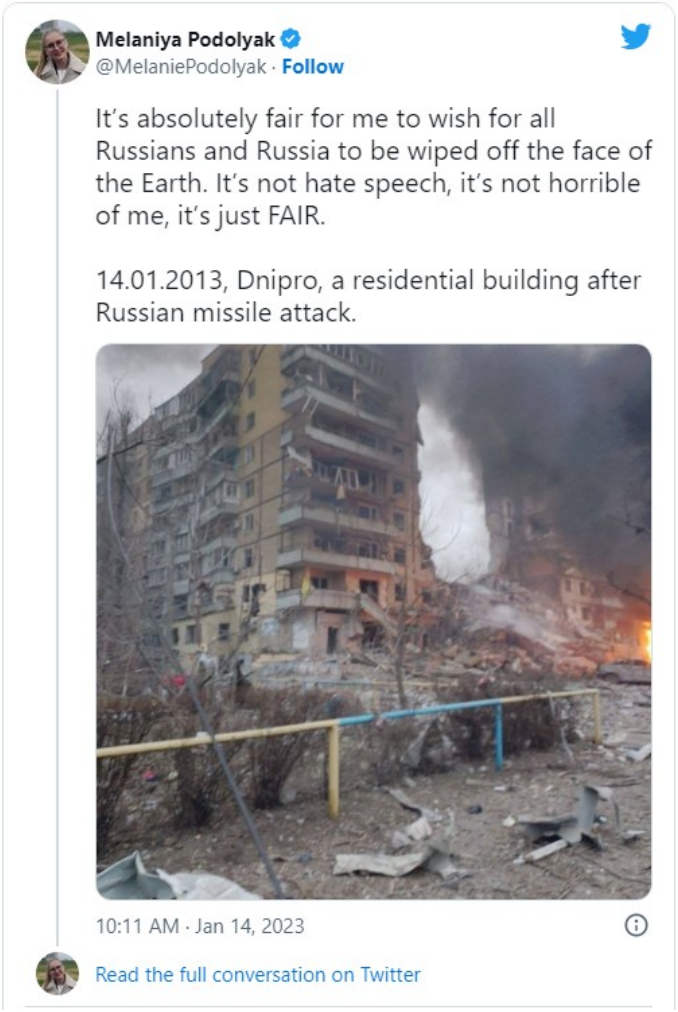
War: jan17 **US Begins Expanded Training of Ukrainian Forces in Germany**

The genocidal remarks were made by blogger Melania Podoliak in response to a missile hitting an apartment block in the Ukrainian city of Dnepr.

The building was struck after a Russian missile was shot down by a Ukrainian anti-air weapon, according to Aleksey Arestovich, an adviser to President Vladimir Zelensky.

"It's absolutely fair for me to wish for all Russians and Russia to be wiped off the face of the Earth," Podoliak tweeted.

"It's not hate speech, it's not horrible of me, it's just FAIR," she added.


Melaniya Podolyak
@MelaniePodolyak · Follow
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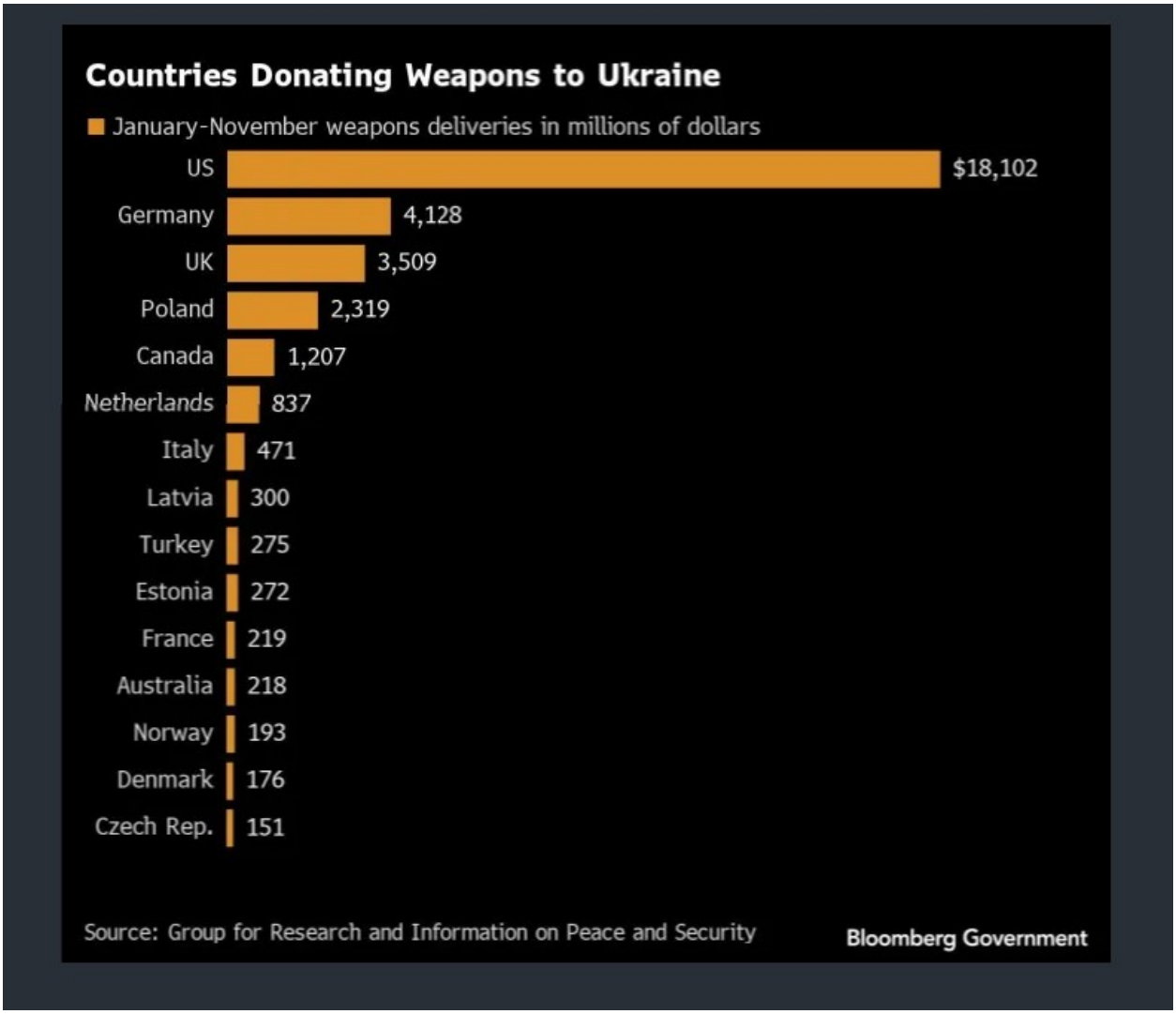
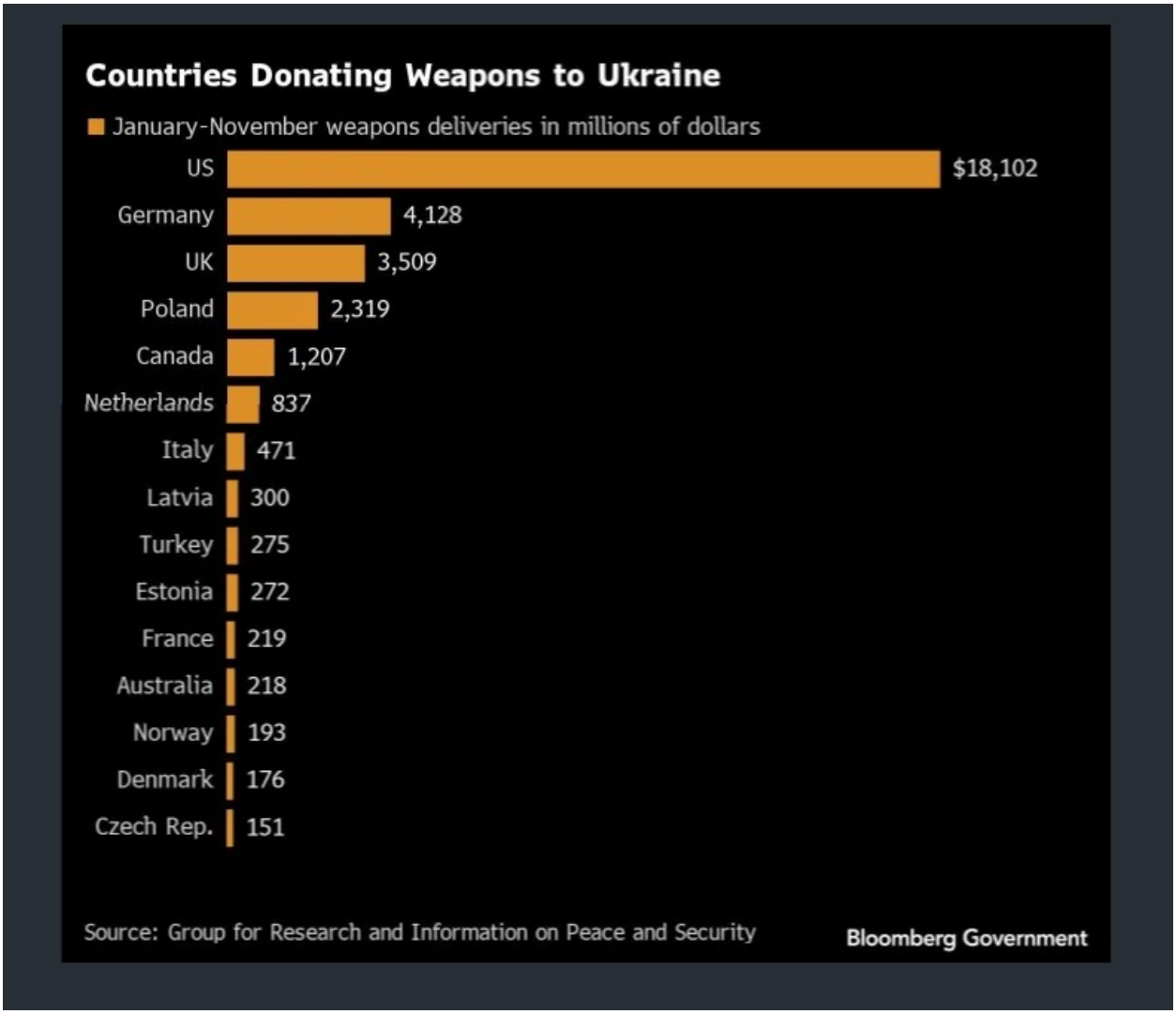
14.01.2013, Dnipro, a residential building after Russian missile attack.
10:11 AM · Jan 14, 2023
Read the full conversation on Twitter


Countries Donating Weapons to Ukraine
January-November weapons deliveries in millions of dollars
US
$18,102
Germany
4,128
UK
3,509
Poland
2,319
Canada
1,207
Netherlands
837
Italy
471
Latvia
300
Turkey
275
Estonia
272
France
219
Australia
218
Norway
193
Denmark
176
Czech Rep.
151
Source: Group for Research and Information on Peace and Security
Bloomberg Government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Australia
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Norway
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Denmark
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Czech Rep.
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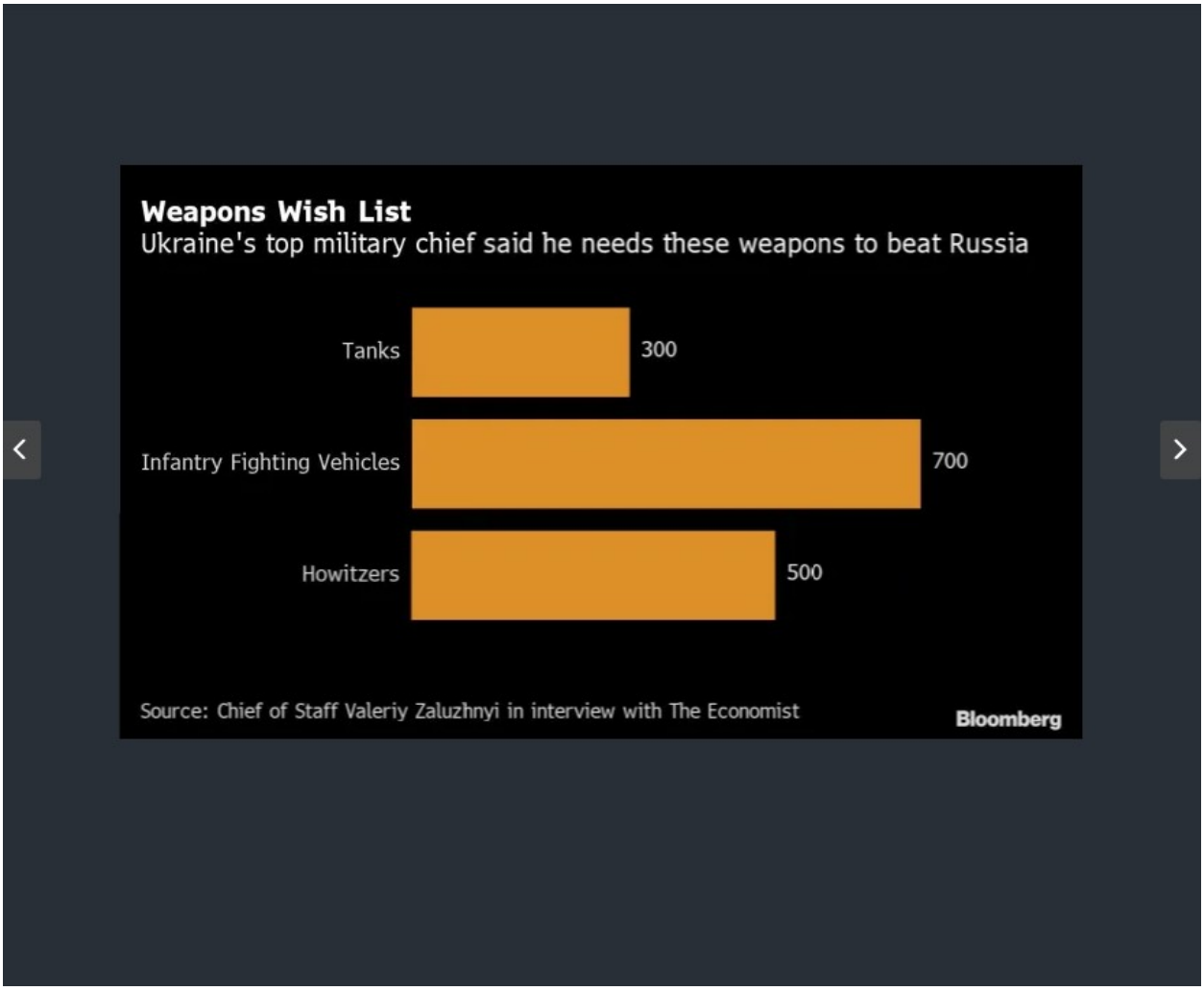
Source: Group for Research and Information on Peace and Security
Bloomberg Government



War: jan17 **Croatia's President: US, NATO Are Waging a Proxy War Against Russia jan17**

War: jan17 **On friday the 13th, "Ukrainian Defense Minister Oleksii Reznikov told BBC on Friday that Ukraine is a "de facto" NATO member"**

War: jan17 **sick: Ukrainian Activist Lauded By Western Media Says She Wants "All Russians" To Be "Wiped Off The Face Of The Earth"**

A Ukrainian activist who has been lauded by legacy media outlets called for “all Russians” to be “wiped off the face of the Earth.”

The genocidal remarks were made by blogger Melania Podoliak in response to a missile hitting an apartment block in the Ukrainian city of Dnepr.

The building was struck after a Russian missile was shot down by a Ukrainian anti-air weapon, according to Aleksey Arestovich, an adviser to President Vladimir Zelensky.

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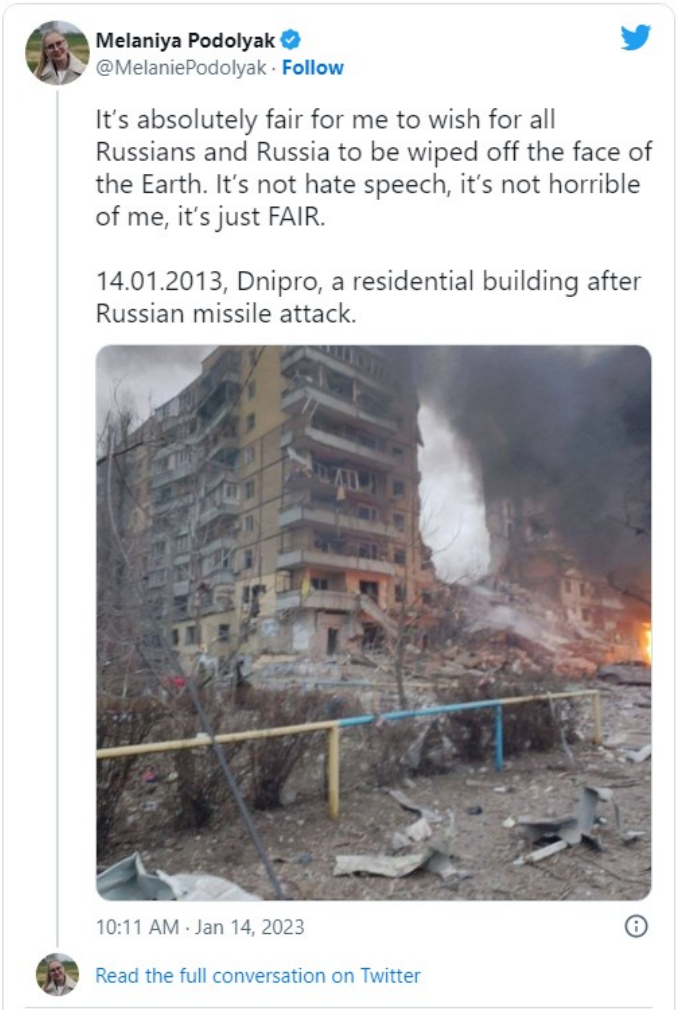
Melaniya Podolyak
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14.01.2013, Dnipro, a residential building after Russian missile attack.
10:11 AM · Jan 14, 2023
Read the full conversation on Twitter

Markets, war: French And German Power Prices Soar As Cold Sweeps Europe jan17

Health, vaccine: "Our own analysis indicates that an estimated 300-500 patients are dying

per week across the UK associated with long waiting times in emergency departmentsm", Adrian Boyle, president of the Royal College of Emergency Medicine

War, energy, markets: US NatGas Prices Rise As Models Suggest 'Polar Vortex To Unload On US'

Source, ads, markets: **Email marketing can be extremely lucrative — it generates an investment return of $36 for every $1 spent**
http://constantcontact.com/blog/email-marketing-statistics/

urbanemudotcom/how-to-develop-and-launch-a-successful-social-behavior-change-campaign/

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4. Knell claims to have extensive experience in Public Health Comm. & Social Marketing. And aims to "largely focus on managing the development & execution of strategically targeted & tailored behavior change campaigns with an eye toward health equity."
Watch on Twitter
GIF
2:23 PM · Jan 16, 2023
46
Reply
Share
Read 3 replies

"To translate the above into layman's terms she is a narrative enforcer. She's funded by Big Pharma and aided by Big Brother to be the ministry of truth. She aims to create social norms by means of censorship and propaganda. **She wants to tell you & I—how/what to say and think.**"

Meanwhile, as this bullying progressed this was happening...

Ads, censorship, source: **behavior change campaigns can sometimes make things worse, like in everyday life. if you don't do it right, people will just do the opposite or feel threatened, attacked, challendged**

Sometimes, behavior change campaigns can end up making a social issue worse. Evidence suggests that anti-smoking commercials, for example, can make young people more likely to smoke.

Behavior change communication (BCC) can be extremely difficult because there's such a fine line between encouraging someone to do something and telling them what to do.

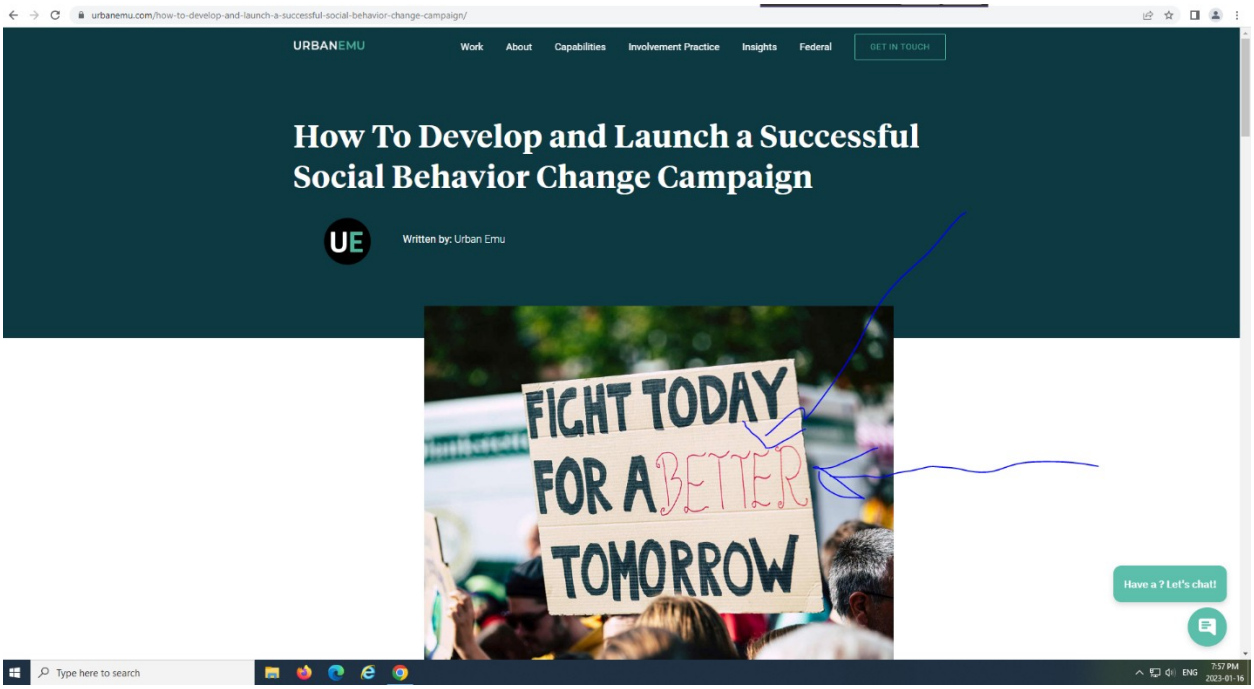
Behavior change campaigns typically target long-term issues that have existed in society for some time — crime, drug use, poor eating habits, etc

some points completely change the equation, like this one, at least for me: "Avoid being culturally insensitive or criticizing someone's beliefs about a particular social issue, even if you don't agree with that person's views. Social issues like COVID-19 vaccine hesitancy, for example, need to be treated with care and compassion. If you want to change someone's behavior, you need to empathize and understand your audience's concerns."

Behavioral change campaigns typically focus on a specific group rather than the whole population

More than 1.8 million smokers quit after the CDC’s two-month-long Tips From Former Smokers campaign in 2014.

They're calling them "behavior change campiagns", now...prolly good to know..



Can you change someone’s behavior? If you develop a clever social behavior change campaign, you can.

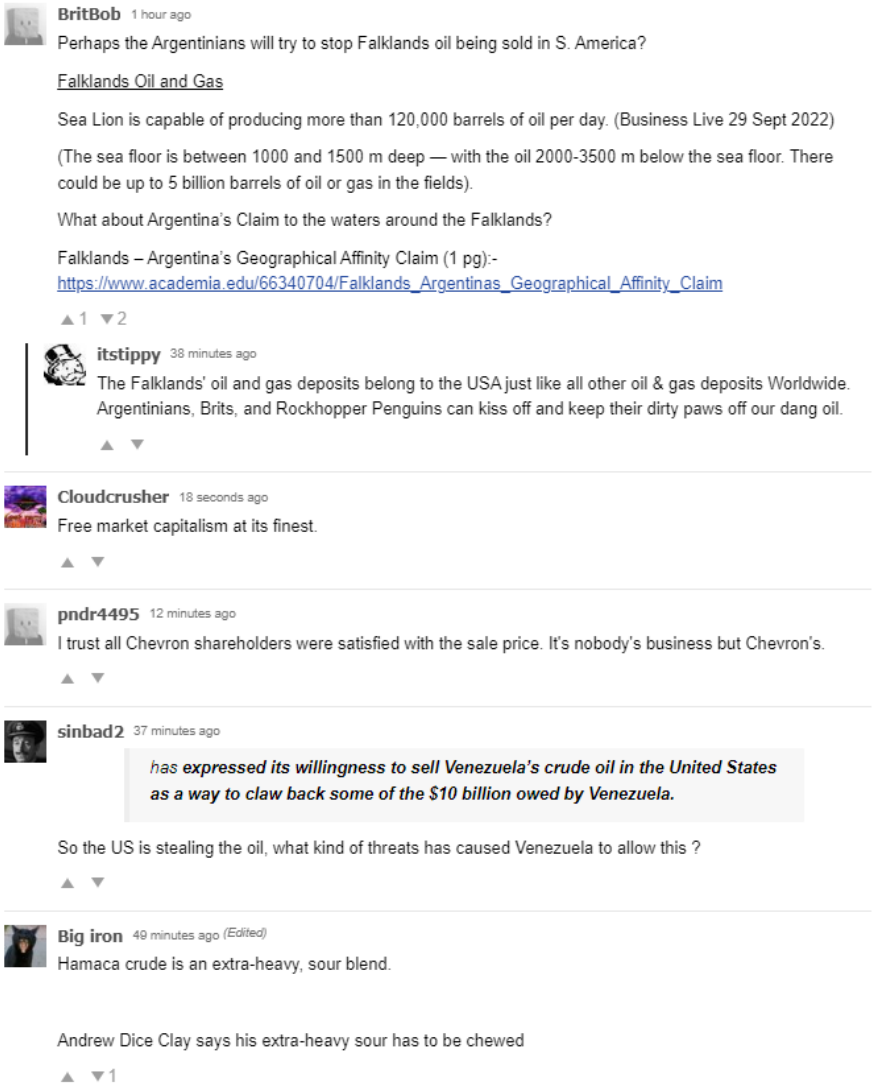
If you wonder why some children sing “Happy Birthday” when washing their hands, that behavior could be the result of a savvy social behavior change campaign from the CDC. Health experts recommend washing your hands while humming the song twice — which takes around 20 seconds.

Social behavior change campaigns like the hand-washing example is about building awareness around a social issue to change someone’s behavior or attitudes. There are loads of examples of these types of campaigns. The “Clunk Click, Every Trip” campaign from the ’70s encouraged British motorists to buckle up, for example.

War, history, Russia:

[RUSSIA'S 'MONROE DOCTRINE' - The Washington Post]

War, sanctions, markets: **Bank of England essentially 'breaks the buck', by refusing to give zenezuela's gold back**



BritBob 1 hour ago

Perhaps the Argentinians will try to stop Falklands oil being sold in S. America?

Falklands Oil and Gas

Sea Lion is capable of producing more than 120,000 barrels of oil per day. (Business Live 29 Sept 2022)

(The sea floor is between 1000 and 1500 m deep — with the oil 2000-3500 m below the sea floor. There could be up to 5 billion barrels of oil or gas in the fields).

What about Argentina's Claim to the waters around the Falklands?

Falklands – Argentina's Geographical Affinity Claim (1 pg):-
https://www.academia.edu/66340704/Falklands_Argentinas_Geographical_Affinity_Claim

▲1 ▼2

itstippy 38 minutes ago

The Falklands' oil and gas deposits belong to the USA just like all other oil & gas deposits Worldwide. Argentinians, Brits, and Rockhopper Penguins can kiss off and keep their dirty paws off our dang oil.

▲ ▼

Cloudcrusher 18 seconds ago

Free market capitalism at its finest.

▲ ▼

pndr4495 12 minutes ago

I trust all Chevron shareholders were satisfied with the sale price. It's nobody's business but Chevron's.

▲ ▼

sinbad2 37 minutes ago

> *has **expressed its willingness to sell Venezuela's crude oil in the United States as a way to claw back some of the $10 billion owed by Venezuela.***

So the US is stealing the oil, what kind of threats has caused Venezuela to allow this ?

▲ ▼

Big iron 49 minutes ago *(Edited)*

Hamaca crude is an extra-heavy, sour blend.

Andrew Dice Clay says his extra-heavy sour has to be chewed

▲ ▼1

LONDON (AP) — The British government sought Monday to prevent Venezuelan leader Nicolás Maduro from gaining access to nearly $2 billion of gold held by the Bank of England as the U.K. Supreme Court started hearing a case that hinges on the question of who should be considered the Latin American nation's president.

Britain told the court that its recognition of opposition leader Juan Guaidó as president is clear and longstanding, and therefore he is the person authorized to decide how the gold held by Britain's central bank should be used. The government's statement came after a lower court said the U.K.'s recognition of Guaidó was "ambiguous."

"The U.K. government has the right to decide who to recognize as the legitimate head of a foreign state," the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office said in a statement. "The U.K. recognizes Juan Guaidó as president of Venezuela and consequentially he is the only individual recognized to have the authority to act on behalf of Venezuela as its head of state."

ADVERTISEMENT

Maduro has demanded access to the gold to help his cash-starved nation fight the coronavirus pandemic. But the Bank of England has refused to hand it over, citing the British government's recognition of Guaidó.

Guaidó has sought to preserve the gold stash at the Bank of England to keep it out of the hands of the Maduro government, which it contends is illegitimate and corrupt.

Guaidó, who was the leader of Venezuela's National Assembly, challenged Maduro's claim to the presidency, arguing that his 2018 election was rigged and invalid. Guaidó says he is the country's interim president under provisions of the constitution that allow the head of the legislature to take power until free elections can be held.

Countries including the U.S. and the U.K. have recognized Guaidó as the legitimate president of Venezuela, although China, Russia and many others haven't and Maduro holds effective power within Venezuela.

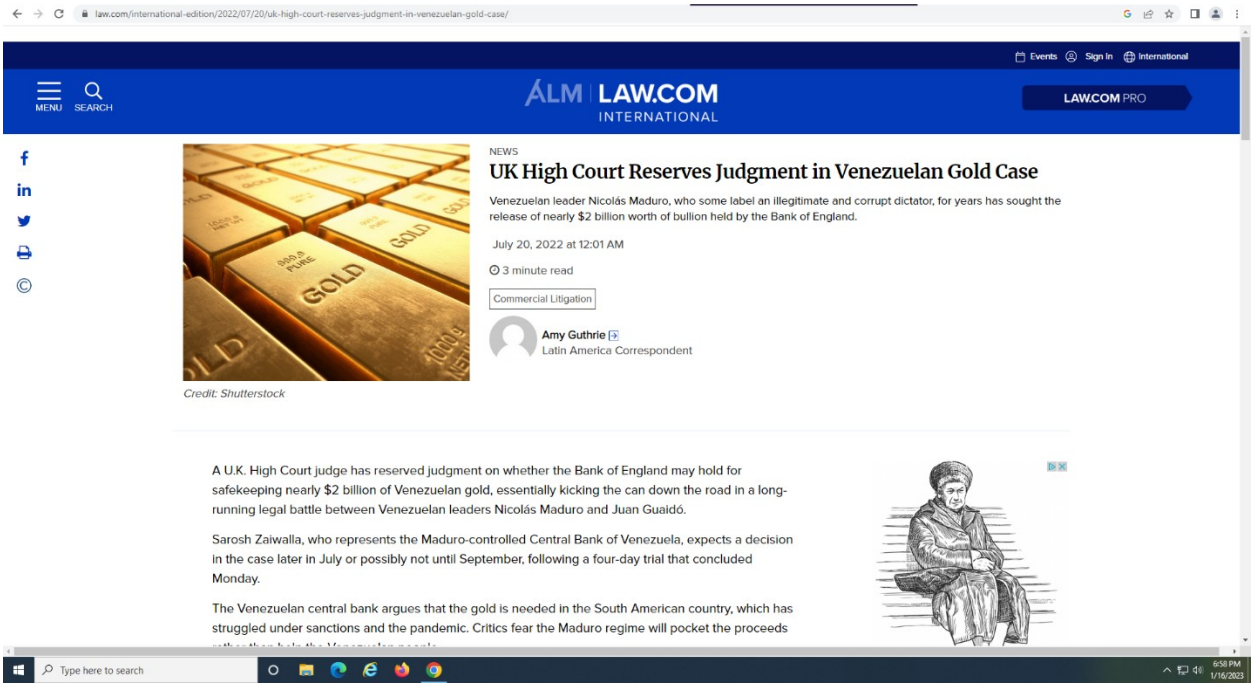
The battle over the gold is being fought out between two competing governing boards of the Central Bank of Venezuela, one appointed by Maduro and the other by Guaidó.

Guaidó, who is represented by the law firm Arnold & Porter, is arguing there is nothing ambiguous about the U.K. actions.

Maduro's lawyers argue that he's still president of Venezuela and that the U.K. has recognized this by continuing diplomatic relations with his government.

Leigh Crestohl, a lawyer representing the Maduro board, said the U.K. government's position threatens the attractiveness of the City of London and the Bank of England as a secure place for foreign assets.

"International observers to this case may be surprised by the possibility that a unilateral statement of political recognition by the U.K. government can dispossess a foreign sovereign of assets deposited in London without any recourse in the English court," Crestohl, a partner at the London-based law firm Zaiwalla & Co., said in a statement. "This is all the more so where that recognition ignores the reality on the ground."


law.com/international-edition/2022/07/20/uk-high-court-reserves-judgment-in-venezuelan-gold-case/
Events
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INTERNATIONAL
LAW.COM PRO
NEWS
UK High Court Reserves Judgment in Venezuelan Gold Case
Venezuelan leader Nicolás Maduro, who some label an illegitimate and corrupt dictator, for years has sought the release of nearly $2 billion worth of bullion held by the Bank of England.
July 20, 2022 at 12:01 AM
3 minute read
Commercial Litigation
Amy Guthrie
Latin America Correspondent
Credit: Shutterstock
A U.K. High Court judge has reserved judgment on whether the Bank of England may hold for safekeeping nearly $2 billion of Venezuelan gold, essentially kicking the can down the road in a long-running legal battle between Venezuelan leaders Nicolás Maduro and Juan Guaidó.
Sarosh Zaiwalla, who represents the Maduro-controlled Central Bank of Venezuela, expects a decision in the case later in July or possibly not until September, following a four-day trial that concluded Monday.
The Venezuelan central bank argues that the gold is needed in the South American country, which has struggled under sanctions and the pandemic. Critics fear the Maduro regime will pocket the proceeds
Type here to search
6:58 PM
1/16/2023

War, markets, sanctions: **U.S. surrenders to venezuala? (don't know enough yet): Chevron Corp has sold a cargo of Venezuelan crude oil to another U.S. refinery, Phillips 66, the first of such a sale since the United States sanctioned Venezuela’s crude oil; ConocoPhillips’ Venezuelan assets were nationalized in 2007—along with many other oil companies’ assets.**

zh commenter:

They went Commie. Then they Nationalized their oil industry and stiffed our Oil Majors. They thought they'd be like Kuwait and live large off oil revenues and nobody'd have to work. Unfortunately the USA got pissy and embargoed their oil, and nobody in Venezuela knew how to run the oil industry, and they couldn't get any outsiders to run things because they'd already stiffed the USA oil majors, and no one wanted to work oil fields anyway because they expected to live large like Kuwait. Now it's just a giant cluster**** with oceans of beautiful oil just sitting there with super easy access to the refineries in the USA, and both countries holding a grudge. Venezuelians are suffering bigtime and I can't get cheap gasoline for my Chevy K2500.

It's long past time to sit down and hammer out a deal, but unfortunately the adults aren't in charge anywhere.

Maduro, who was re-elected president in 2018 in a vote critics at home and abroad denounced as a sham, had said he wanted to sell some of the gold at the height COVID-19 pandemic to shore up Venezuela's health service, brought to its knees by six years of recession and chronic shortages. He has blamed U.S. sanctions for worsening humanitarian conditions.

The UK's central bank holds nearly $2 billion in gold that belongs to the government of Venezuela. Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro wants to access the gold, but the UK government refuses to hand it over since London recognizes Juan Guaido as president of Venezuela.

The UK supreme court opened a hearing on the matter on Monday, and London reaffirmed its recognition of Guaido. The court case is being fought between the board of the Central Bank of Venezuela that was appointed by Maduro and one appointed by Guaido.

"The UK recognizes Juan Guaidó as president of Venezuela and consequentially he is the only individual recognized to have the authority to act on behalf of Venezuela as its head of state," the UK's Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office said in a statement.

The US, UK, and other allies first recognized Guaido as interim president of Venezuela in January 2019. Since then, Guaido has lost what little support he had in Venezuela and has become increasingly irrelevant. In January of this year, after Guaido lost his seat in the National Assembly, the EU said it no longer recognizes him as president.

Washington's regime change effort has been an utter failure. Besides the recognition of Guaido, which came along with a failed coup attempt, the US has also imposed a crippling sanctions regime on the country. While the pressure has done nothing to unseat Maduro, the sanctions have had a devastating impact on Venezuela's civilian population.

Last week, the Biden administration recently took one small step to ease sanctions on Venezuela by allowing the country to import propane. But besides the propane move, President Biden is continuing the failed regime change policy of the Trump administration and recently reaffirmed the US's recognition of Guaido.

Hugo Chavez: "There is no doubt whatsoever that the U.S. government, lead by Mr. Bush, planned and participated in a coup d'etat in Venezuela in April, 2002." found in zh comments

democracynow, 2005: "President Chavez was in New York last week for a summit of world leaders at the United Nations. In his speech, Chavez blasted US foreign policy and accused the Bush administration of trying to hijack the UN summit. He described the United States as a terrorist nation because it is harboring the televangelist Pat Robertson who recently called for his assassination. Chavez has long charged that the US was behind the aborted coup against him in 2002."

Censorship: **pretty serious statement about censorship from highly credible source: "To try and stifle digital dissent during a pandemic, when tweets and emails are some of the only forms of protest available to those locked in their homes, is deeply sinister", Nick Dearden, director of Global Justice Now.**

Read 12 replies

"For more than two years, **a global movement has been speaking out against pharmaceutical greed and demanding that everyone, everywhere has the tools to combat pandemics**," said Maaza Seyoum, a campaigner for the People's Vaccine Alliance. "Whatever nasty tricks companies and governments pull," she continued, "we cannot and will not be silenced."

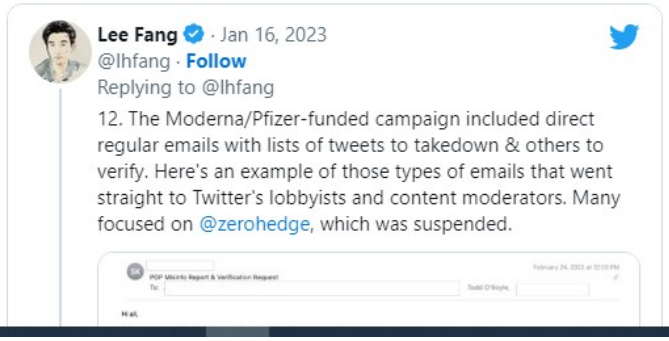
Second, 'Pfizer & Moderna's lobbying group, BIO, fully funded a special content moderation campaign designed by a contractor called Public Good Projects (PGP), which worked w/Twitter to set content moderation rules around covid "misinformation.'" according to Fang.

BIO funded the PGP campaign, "Stronger," to the tune of $1.275 million. Its focus? **Helping Twitter 'create content moderation bots,'** selecting which public health accounts would be verified, and helping to crowdsource content takedowns.

Of note, **the Moderna/Pfizer-funded campaign included regular emails to Twitter officals with takedown and verification requests**.

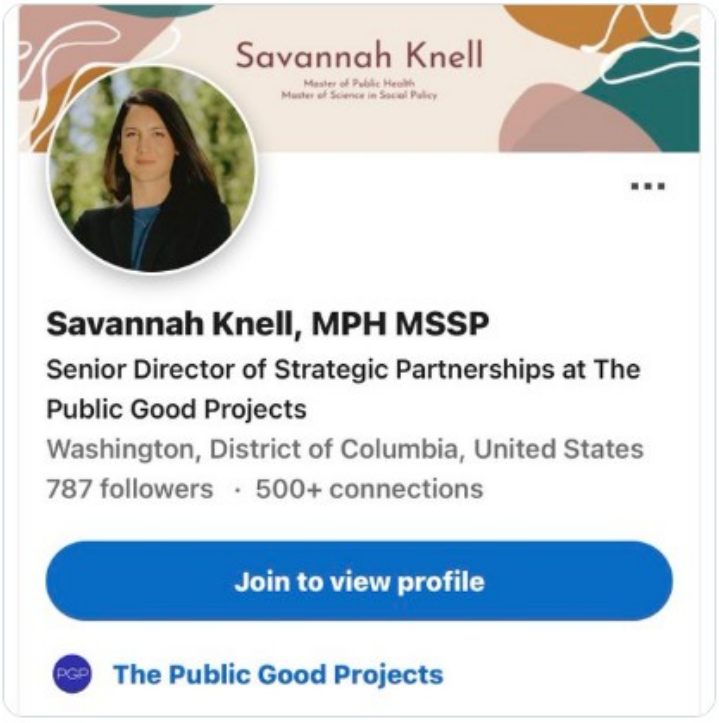
"Here's an example of those types of emails that went straight to Twitter's lobbyists and content moderators. ***Many focused on @zerohedge, which was suspended.***"

Fang includes a screencap of an email with **two excel spreadsheets** containing said requests.


Lee Fang · Jan 16, 2023
@lhfang · Follow
Replying to @lhfang
12. The Moderna/Pfizer-funded campaign included direct regular emails with lists of tweets to takedown & others to verify. Here's an example of those types of emails that went straight to Twitter's lobbyists and content moderators. Many focused on @zerohedge, which was suspended.

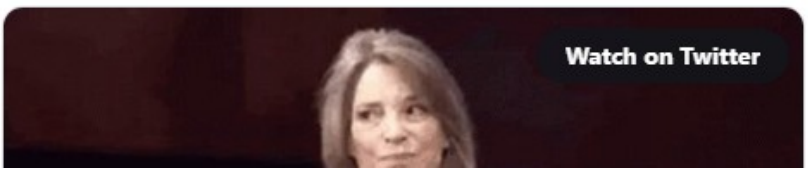
TexasLindsay™ · Jan 16, 2023
@TexasLindsay_ · **Follow**
Replying to @TexasLindsay_

3. So what does Knell do exactly? On LinkedIn, she claims to lead PGP's partnership strategy development & execution—working with "The Rockefeller Foundation, CDC Foundation, UNICEF, Yale Institute of Global Health, Meta, & more."


Savannah Knell
Master of Public Health
Master of Science in Social Policy
Savannah Knell, MPH MSSP
Senior Director of Strategic Partnerships at The Public Good Projects
Washington, District of Columbia, United States
787 followers · 500+ connections
Join to view profile
The Public Good Projects

TexasLindsay™
@TexasLindsay_ · **Follow**

4. Knell claims to have extensive experience in Public Health Comm. & Social Marketing. And aims to "largely focus on managing the development & execution of strategically targeted & tailored behavior change campaigns with an eye toward health equity."



TexasLindsay™
@TexasLindsay_ · **Follow**

2. The woman advocating for the censorship of inconvenient truths at the behest of her funders rife with COI's is Savannah Knell, MPH MSSP, the Senior Director of Strategic Partnerships at The Public Good Projects (PGP).

2:18 PM · Jan 16, 2023

91 **Reply** **Share**

Read 11 replies

"To translate the above into layman's terms she is a narrative enforcer. She's funded by Big Pharma and aided by Big Brother to be the ministry of truth. She aims to create social norms by means of censorship and propaganda. **She wants to tell you & I—how/what to say and think.**"

Meanwhile, as this bullying progressed this was happening...

zerohedge
@zerohedge · Follow
*PFIZER JUMPS AS MUCH AS 6.8% TO RECORD DEFYING MARKET ROUT
behold Pfizer McPfizerface
10:45 AM · Nov 26, 2021
956
See the latest COVID-19 information on Twitter
Read 33 replies

Finally, as this latest 'Twitter Files' thread spreads across a holiday market, **Elon Musk himself has opined on the efforts to bully the former Twitter executives into censoring ZeroHedge**:

David Sacks · Jan 16, 2023
@DavidSacks · Follow
I've long followed and appreciated @zerohedge for of its irreverent market analysis. I never understood why it was censored — until now. It was at the behest of Big Pharma.

Musk Says ZeroHedge Did "Nothing Warranting Suspension" After 'Twitter Files' Expose Big Pharma Bullying

BY TYLER DURDEN

MONDAY, JAN 16, 2023 - 02:55 PM

Today's Twitter Files drop contains several notable pieces of **evidence**.

First, that lobbyists for the pharmaceutical industry launched a **'massive lobbying blitz to crush any effort to share patents/IP for new covid-related medicine**," according to *The Intercept*'s Lee Fang. As part of this effort, lobbying group BIO "wrote to the newly elected Biden admin, **demanding the U.S. gov sanction any country attempting to violate patent rights and create generic low cost covid medicine or vaccines.**"

From Fang's *Intercept* piece, **below is one of the flagged tweets in question** - which links to a ZeroHedge article aggregated from NakedCapitalism, and which logically posits; "if a vaccinated person and an unvaccinated person have roughly the same capacity to carry, shed and transmit the virus, particularly in its Delta form, what difference does implementing a vaccination passport actually make to the spread of the virus?"

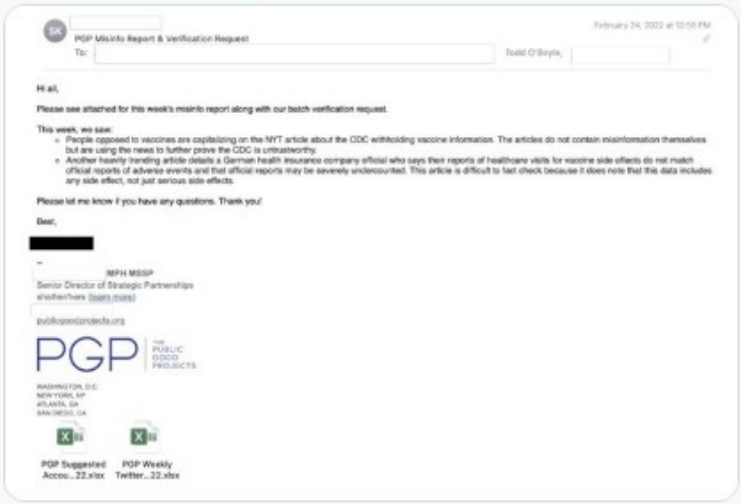
> **Stephanie Seneff**
> @stephanieseneff · **Follow**
>
> "if a vaccinated person and an unvaccinated person have roughly the same capacity to carry, shed and transmit the virus, particularly in its Delta form, what difference does implementing a vaccination passport actually make to the spread of the virus?" zerohedge.com/geopolitical/s...
>
> 2:04 PM · Aug 29, 2021
>
> **1.1K** **See the latest COVID-19 information on Twitter**
>
> **Read 53 replies**

"To try and stifle digital dissent during a pandemic, when tweets and emails are some of the only forms of protest available to those locked in their homes, **is deeply sinister**," said Nick Dearden, director of Global Justice Now.

More on one of the people behind this effort, courtesy of Twitter user @TexasLindsay_

> **TexasLindsay™** · Jan 16, 2023
> @TexasLindsay_ · **Follow**
> 1. So, who censored @zerohedge?
> A woman who is deeply entangled with government agencies working at what one could arguable call a front organization funded by Big Pharma and fueled by government interests.
> #TwitterFiles
>
> > **Lee Fang** @lhfang
> > Replying to @lhfang

regular emails with lists of tweets to takedown & others to verify. Here's an example of those types of emails that went straight to Twitter's lobbyists and content moderators. Many focused on @zerohedge, which was suspended.



PGP Misinfo Report & Verification Request

To: Todd O'Boyle,

Hi all,

Please see attached for this week's misinfo report along with our batch verification request.

This week, we saw:

- People opposed to vaccines are capitalizing on the NYT article about the CDC withholding vaccine information. The articles do not contain misinformation themselves but are using the news to further prove the CDC is untrustworthy.
- Another heavily trending article details a German health insurance company official who says their reports of healthcare visits for vaccine side effects do not match official reports of adverse events and that official reports may be severely undercounted. This article is difficult to fact check because it does note that this data includes any side effect, not just serious side effects.

Please let me know if you have any questions. Thank you!

Best,

[redacted]

MPH MSSP

Senior Director of Strategic Partnerships

she/her/hers (learn more)

publicgoodprojects.org

PGP THE PUBLIC GOOD PROJECTS

WASHINGTON, D.C.
NEW YORK, NY
ATLANTA, GA
SAN DIEGO, CA

PGP Suggested Accou...22.xlsx

PGP Weekly Twitter...22.xlsx

Lee Fang ✓
@lhfang · **Follow**

13. Notably, this massive push to censor and label covid misinfo never applied to drug companies. When big pharma wildly exaggerated the risks of creating low-cost generic covid vaccines, Stronger did nothing. The rules applied only to critics of industry.

> **PhRMA** ✓ @PhRMA
> The biopharma sector employs more than 900,000 workers and supports 4.4 million U.S. jobs. Those jobs would be at risk if the #TRIPS waiver is extended to #COVID19 treatments. Read more about the real consequences of waiving commitments to protect IP: onphr.ma/3WIS8ER

12:26 PM · Jan 16, 2023

2.6K **See the latest COVID-19 information on Twitter**

Read 18 replies

Read 33 replies

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David Sacks · Jan 16, 2023
@DavidSacks · **Follow**

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> Replying to @lhfang
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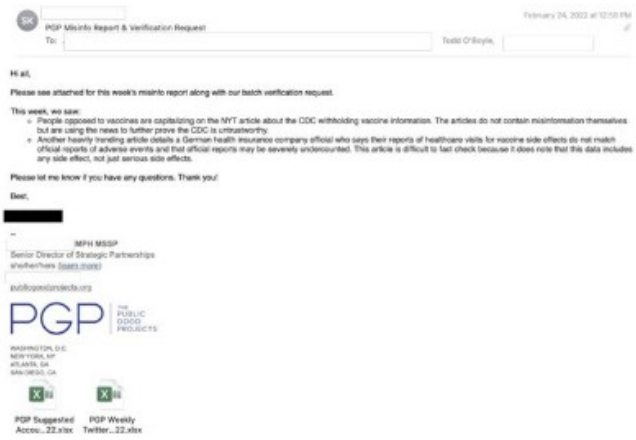
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Senior Director of Strategic Partnerships

PGP THE PUBLIC GOOD PROJECTS

PGP Suggested Accou...22.xlsx
PGP Weekly Twitter...22.xlsx

Elon Musk
@elonmusk · **Follow**

Zerohedge can be jerks at times, but they did nothing warranting suspension

3:11 PM · Jan 16, 2023

6.2K **Reply** **Share**

Of note, Pfizer and BioNTech raked in **$37 billion in revenue in 2021 alone** from the COVID-19 vaccine, while Moderna made $17.7 billion the same year (and has recently announced a plan to hike the price of the Covid-19 vaccine by approximately 400%).

BioNTech, which developed the Pfizer vaccine, "**reached out to Twitter to request that Twitter directly censor users tweeting at them to ask for generic low cost vaccines.**"

> 5. That brings us to Twitter. The global lobbying blitz includes direct pressure on social media. BioNTech, which developed Pfizer's vaccine, reached out to Twitter to request that Twitter directly censor users tweeting at them to ask for generic low cost vaccines. pic.twitter.com/6cVIRcUDZV
>
> — Lee Fang (@lhfang) January 16, 2023

According to Fang, "**Twitter's reps responded quickly to the pharma request,**" while "A lobbyist in Europe asked the content moderation team to monitor the accounts of Pfizer, AstraZeneca & of activist hashtags like #peoplesvaccine."

Meanwhile, the "fake accounts" flagged by the pharmaceutical companies for action were **real people** - one of whom Fang spoke with on the phone.

Lee Fang
@lhfang · Follow
Replying to @lhfang
8. It's not clear what actions Twitter ultimately took on this particular request. Several Twitter employees noted in subsequent messages that none of this activism constituted abuse. But the company continued monitoring tweets.
12:02 PM · Jan 16, 2023
2.8K
Reply
Share
Read 12 replies

"For more than two years, **a global movement has been speaking out against pharmaceutical greed and demanding that everyone, everywhere has the tools to combat pandemics**," said Maaza Seyoum, a campaigner for the People's Vaccine Alliance. "Whatever nasty tricks companies and governments pull," she continued, "we cannot and will not be silenced."

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[redacted]

MPH MSSP
Senior Director of Strategic Partnerships

PGP THE PUBLIC GOOD PROJECTS

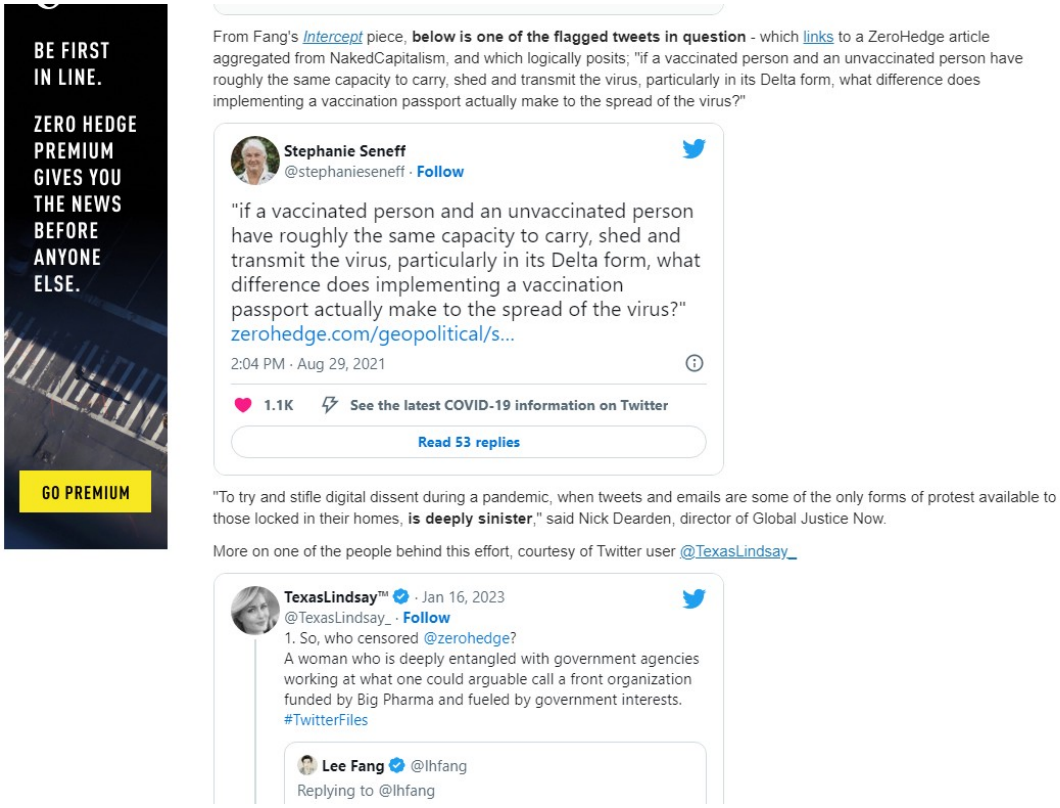
PGP Suggested Accou...22.xlsx

PGP Weekly Twitter...22.xlsx

TexasLindsay™
@TexasLindsay_ · **Follow**

2. The woman advocating for the censorship of inconvenient truths at the behest of her funders rife

Censorship: **crazy flagged tweet I found from the twitter files on zerohedge (these are coordinated leaks, by the way. it's our leadership basically just telling us that we're being censored, moderated, and watched all the time on the internet)**


BE FIRST IN LINE.
ZERO HEDGE PREMIUM GIVES YOU THE NEWS BEFORE ANYONE ELSE.
GO PREMIUM
From Fang's Intercept piece, below is one of the flagged tweets in question - which links to a ZeroHedge article aggregated from NakedCapitalism, and which logically posits; "if a vaccinated person and an unvaccinated person have roughly the same capacity to carry, shed and transmit the virus, particularly in its Delta form, what difference does implementing a vaccination passport actually make to the spread of the virus?"
Stephanie Seneff
@stephanieseneff · Follow
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#TwitterFiles
Lee Fang @lhfang
Replying to @lhfang

Rome, history: **The Bar Kokhba revolt greatly influenced the course of Jewish history and the philosophy of the Jewish religion; among the key events to differentiate Christianity as a religion distinct from Judaism.**

Following the Fall of Betar, the Roman forces went on a rampage of systematic killing, eliminating all remaining Jewish villages in the region and seeking out the refugees. Legio III Cyrenaica was the main force to execute this last phase of the campaign. Historians disagree on the duration of the Roman campaign following the fall of Betar. While some claim further resistance was broken quickly, others argue that

pockets of Jewish rebels continued to hide with their families into the winter months of late 135 and possibly even spring 136. By early 136 however, it is clear that the revolt was defeated.[65]

Aftermath[edit]

Jewish casualties and the destruction of Judean countryside[edit]

Modern historians view the Bar Kokhba Revolt as having decisive historic importance.[15] They note that, unlike in the aftermath of the First Jewish–Roman War, the Jewish population of Judea was devastated after the revolt, with many Jews being killed, exiled, or sold into slavery.[15] Jewish religious and political authority was suppressed far more brutally than before. In his account of the revolt, Roman historian Cassius Dio (c. 155–235) wrote that:[18]

> 50 of their most important outposts and 985 of their most famous villages were razed to the ground. 580,000 men were slain in the various raids and battles, and the number of those that perished by famine, disease and fire was past finding out, Thus nearly the whole of Judaea was made desolate.
>
> *— Cassius Dio, History of Rome, 69.14.1-2*

In 1981, Schäfer suggested that Dio exaggerated his numbers.[66] On the other hand, in 2003 Cotton considered Dio's figures highly plausible, in light of accurate Roman census declarations.[67] The ethno-archaeological comparison analysis by Dvir Raviv and Chaim Ben David, published in 2021, asserts of sufficient accuracy in Dio's depopulation claims as a "reliable account, which he based on contemporaneous documentation".[18] As of today, no village in the region of Judea whose remains have been excavated so far has not been destroyed in the revolt.[68] Some scholars describe the destruction of the Jewish communities in Judea as a genocide.[15][19]

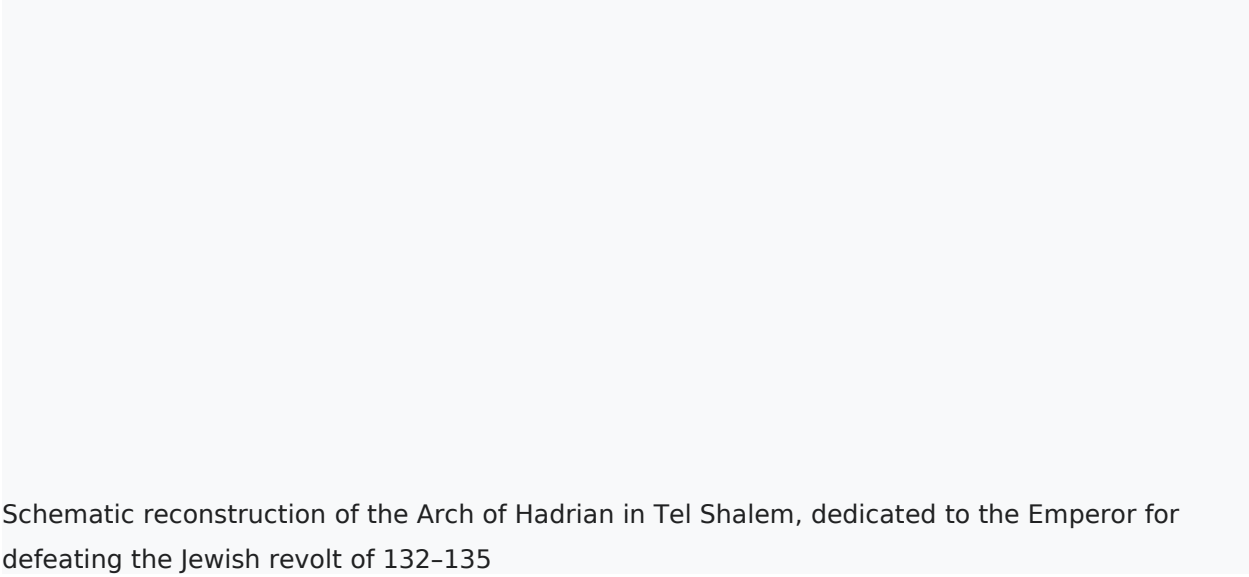
Sources indicate that Jewish captives were sold into slavery and sent to various parts of the empire.[16] A chronicle written in the 7th century CE, which was based on lost ancient sources, states that "Jewish captives were sold for the price of one ration of food for a horse."[69] This number indicates that the slave market was flooded with new slaves.

Captives who were not sold as slaves were deported to Gaza, Egypt and elsewhere, greatly adding to the Jewish diaspora.[69] Rabbinic Judaism had already become a portable religion, centered on synagogues.

Jewish presence in the region significantly dwindled after the failure of the Bar Kokhba revolt,[70] and pagan populations penetrated it.[71] Nevertheless, there was a continuous small Jewish presence and Galilee became its religious center.[72][73] Some of the Judean survivors resettled in Galilee, with some rabbinical families gathering in Sepphoris.[74] The Mishnah and part of the Talmud, central Jewish texts, were composed during the 2nd to 4th centuries CE in Galilee.[75] Jewish communities were still present on the edges of Judea, including Eleutheropolis,[76] Ein Gedi[77] and the southern Hebron Hills. There were also Jewish communities along the coastal plain, in Caesarea, Beit She'an and on the Golan Heights.[78][79] In the aftermath of the defeat, the maintenance of Jewish settlement in Palestine became a major concern of the rabbinate.[80] The Sages endeavoured to halt Jewish dispersal, and even banned emigration from Palestine, branding those who settled outside its borders as idolaters.[80]

The Galilee in late antiquity

Roman losses[edit]



Schematic reconstruction of the Arch of Hadrian in Tel Shalem, dedicated to the Emperor for defeating the Jewish revolt of 132–135

Cassius Dio wrote that "Many Romans, moreover, perished in this war. Therefore, Hadrian, in writing to the Senate, did not employ the opening phrase commonly affected by the emperors: 'If you and your children are in health, it is well; I and the army are in health.'"[81] Some argue that the exceptional number of preserved Roman veteran diplomas from the late 150s and 160 CE indicate an unprecedented conscription across the Roman Empire to replenish heavy losses within military legions and auxiliary units between 133 and 135, corresponding to the revolt.[82]

After the suppression of the revolt, Hadrian promulgated a series of religious edicts aimed at uprooting the Jewish nationalism in Judea.[9][68] He prohibited Torah law and the Hebrew calendar, and executed Judaic scholars. The sacred scrolls of Judaism were ceremonially burned at the large Temple complex for Jupiter which he built on the Temple Mount. At this Temple, he installed two statues, one of Jupiter, another of himself. These proclamations remained in effect until Hadrian's death in 138, which marked a significant relief to the surviving Jewish communities.[68]

A further, more lasting punishment was also implemented by the Romans.[68] In an attempt to erase any memory of Judea or Ancient Israel, the name Judaea was dropped from the provincial name, and Provincia Iudaea was renamed Syria Palaestina.[22][23][24] Despite such name changes taking place elsewhere, rebellions have never resulted in a nation's name being expunged.[68] Similarly, under the argument to ensure the prosperity of the newly founded Roman colony of Aelia Capitolina, Jews were forbidden to enter, except on the day of Tisha B'Av.[87] By destroying the association of Jews with Judea and forbidding the practice of the Jewish faith, Hadrian aimed to root out a nation that had inflicted heavy casualties on the Roman Empire.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bar_Kokhba_revolt

The ruins of Betar, the last standing stronghold of Bar Kokhba, can be found at *Khirbet al-Yahud*, an archeological site located in the vicinity of Battir and Beitar Illit. A stone inscription bearing Latin characters and discovered near the site shows that the Fifth Macedonian Legion and the Eleventh Claudian Legion took part in the siege.[116]

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Legio_XI_Claudia

Hadrian energetically pursued his own Imperial ideals and personal interests. He visited almost every province of the Empire, accompanied by an Imperial retinue of specialists and administrators. He encouraged military preparedness and discipline, and he fostered, designed, or personally subsidised various civil and religious institutions and building projects. In Rome itself, he rebuilt the Pantheon and constructed the vast Temple of Venus and Roma. In Egypt, he may have rebuilt the Serapeum of Alexandria. He was an ardent admirer of Greece and sought to make Athens the cultural capital of the Empire, so he ordered the construction of many opulent temples there. His intense relationship with Greek youth Antinous and the latter's untimely death led Hadrian to establish a widespread cult late in his reign. He suppressed the Bar Kokhba revolt in Judaea.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hadrian

Hideout systems[edit]

Entrance into an excavated cave used by Bar Kokhba's rebels, Khirbet Midras

The Bar Kokhba revolt has been better understood thanks to the discovery of artificially-carved hideout systems under many sites across Judea. Their discovery is consistent with Cassius Dio's writings, which reported that the rebels used underground networks as part of their tactics to avoid direct confrontations with the Romans. Many were hewn in earlier times and were utilized by rebels during the revolt as indicated by the usage of Bar Kokhba revolt coinage and other archeological findings.[117][120]

Hideout systems were found at more than 130 archaeological sites in Judea; most of them in the Judaean Lowlands, but also in other areas of Judea and even in the Galilee.[117] Examples include: Hurvat Midras, Tel Goded, Maresha, Aboud and others.

Rome, history, Germany, war: **nasi**

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nasi_(Hebrew_title)

markets: **What a slave can go through sometimes, basically...**

A woman in Singapore who joined her daughter in abusing a domestic worker until she died of a brain injury has been sentenced to 14 years' jail.

Prema S Naraynasamy, 64, was given the sentence on Monday over the abuse of 24-year-old Myanmar national Piang Ngaih Don.

Prema had pleaded guilty in November to 48 charges, mostly of voluntarily causing hurt to a domestic worker.

Her acts of abuse include: Pouring or spraying water on the 24-year-old domestic helper, kicking, punching and slapping her, grabbing her by the neck, pulling her up by her hair and "spinning" her head violently.

She also hit the domestic worker with items like a spatula, a towel and a detergent bottle, and watched as the helper used the toilet.

The domestic helper died of brain injury with severe blunt trauma to her neck on July 26, 2016, after 14 months of repeated abuse.

She was punched, stamped on and starved until she was only 24kg. In the days before she died, she was tied to a window grille at night and assaulted if she tried to rummage for food from the dustbin.

The assault that led to the victim’s death occurred from the night of July 25, 2016 into the morning of July 26, 2016.

The helper was doing laundry at about 11:40pm on July 25, 2016, when Prema’s daughter, Gaiyathiri Murugayan, felt she was too slow. She assaulted her and struck her head with a detergent bottle.

Gaiyathiri called Prema over, and together they assaulted the victim, splashing water on her. Prema dragged the victim across the kitchen and living room to the bedroom, where Gaiyathiri kicked her in the stomach and Prema punched and strangled her. After refusing the domestic worker any dinner, Gaiyathiri tied the victim’s wrist forcefully to the window grille just before midnight and kicked her in the stomach, before leaving her on the floor in wet clothes.

Ms Piang Ngaih Don did not wake up after that. Mother and daughter called in a doctor, lying about what happened, and were later arrested.

Markets, war: **CROWD FUNDING, BUT FOR A COUP IN BERMA (MYANNMAR)**

- Almost half the money is from sale of so-called Spring Revolution Special Treasury Bonds; ‘our

investors know they will benefit only if this revolution is successful’

- •One person has given US$6 million, funds also raised through auction of properties, including mansions owned by junta chief; junta seized power in February 2021
- Myanmar’s shadow National Unity Government said it has raised more than US$100 million to fund its democracy effort and topple the junta.

  About 45 per cent of the funds are from the sales of so-called Spring Revolution Special Treasury Bonds, according to Tin Tun Naing, shadow minister for planning, finance and investment. The debt does not pay interest and the capital will be repaid only when the democracy effort is successful.

  Funds were also raised through the auction of military-linked properties. While buyers will not have immediate access to the properties which they had successfully bid on and paid for, the National Unity Government has promised they will be awarded the assets after the junta rule.

  Among the assets open for bids were two mansions owned by junta chief Min Aung Hlaing, Tin Tun Naing said at a press briefing on Sunday. The funds will be “effectively used in different sectors” to ensure positive results from the democracy fight in about a year, he said.

  The shadow government will soon legalise an initial coin offering (the cryptocurrency industry’s equivalent of an IPO, or initial public offering) to put cryptocurrencies at the centre of its finance plan while accepting fixed deposits in the form of money

transfers and cryptocurrency deposits in a bank that will be set up soon, Tin Tun Naing said.

“To ensure the revolution will bear fruit in one year, we will make use of blockchain and cryptocurrencies to establish the Spring Development Bank by the end of next month,” he said. Anyone keen on funding the government is encouraged to use its banking functions which will be available in the first quarter of this year, he said.

The group previously tried to gain access to US$1 billion of funds frozen by the US since February 2021, when the country’s armed forces toppled a civilian government. Allies of deposed leader Aung San Suu Kyi make up the shadow government, which remains confident it can regain control of the entire country soon.

Nobel laureate Suu Kyi, 77, is serving a 33-year sentence after she was found guilty of a slew of criminal charges including corruption and inciting dissent against the military.

War, sanctions, markets, energy, censorship: **Germany Opens Its 2nd Liquefied Natural Gas Terminal**

Chancellor Olaf Scholz took part in the ceremony in Lubmin on the Baltic Sea coast, which came less than a month after he inaugurated Germany's first LNG terminal at Wilhelmshaven on the North Sea. Several more are expected to go online in the coming months, including another in Lubmin.

2 stalled LNG projects in Nova Scotia may be on the brink of revival

TOO FUCKING LATE NOW.....THAT'S HOW IT WORKS YOU STUPPPPPPPID

FUUUUUUUUUUUUUUUUUUUUUUUUUUUUUUUUUUUUCKLLKKKKKKKKKKKKKKKKKKKKS

cbcDOTca/news/canada/nova-scotia/2-lng-proposals-could-move-forward-bear-head-goldboro-1.6447671

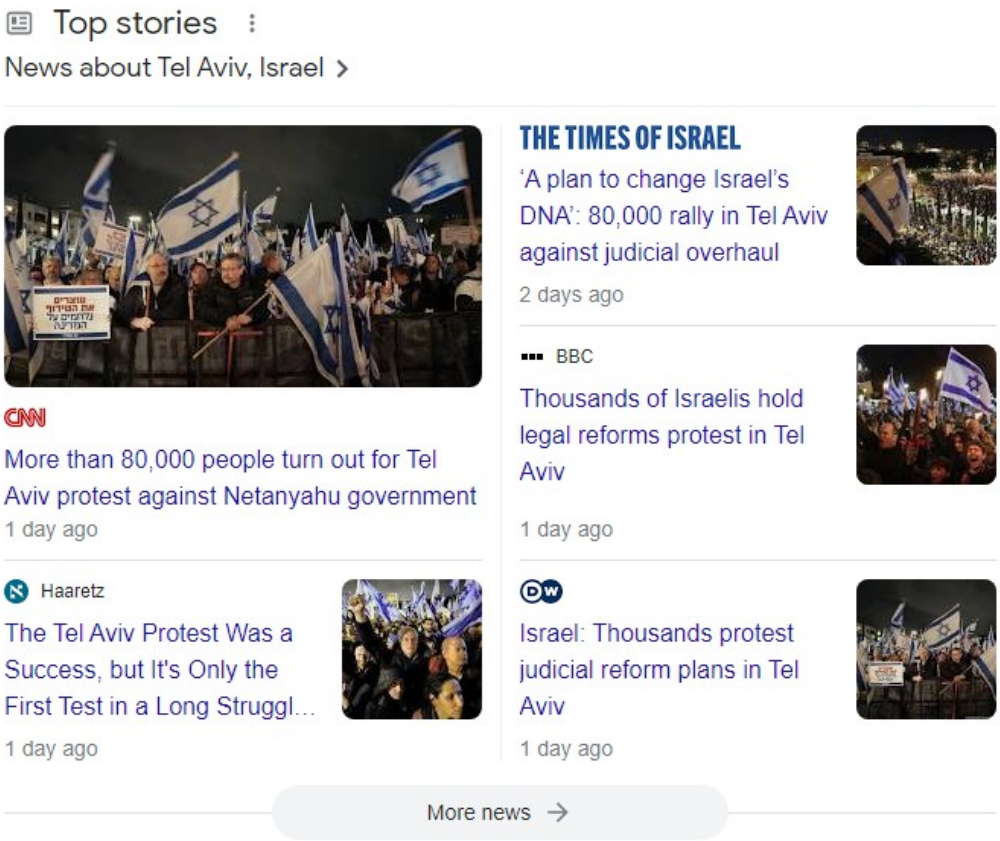
war, sanctions: **narco insurgents, is this the next enemy? "This Congressman Wants the U.S. To Use Military Force Against Mexican Cartels". Reason jan16**

These shoots outs are starting to llok like a loit more than arrests, and more like armed insurgents fighting an enemy. America has few that it actually considers an enemy, but, you do end up on their enemies list, it is very bad for the group, or even individual……History, is replete with example of those that have hurt Americans ending up in almost certain. The point is, America is nice to those that hate it, but if you actually start posing a threat, it doesn't end well…In this case, America will have eventually have full right to send their troops into mexican territory to deal with these narco insurgents, similar to the way they have dealth with other enemies of the past, ie. ISIS, alqueada, boko haram.

"One interventionist congressman thinks the solution is American military might. Speaking about the cartel violence, Rep. Mike Waltz (R–Fla.) told Fox News host Maria Bartiromo on Sunday that "we need to go on offense against them" since "the cartels are destabilizing our neighbor" and "running our border.""

reasondotcom/2023/01/10/this-congressman-wants-the-u-s-to-use-military-force-against-mexican-cartels/

war, Israel, censorship, iran: **'We Are Not Afraid': 80,000 Israelis Protest Extremist Netanyahu Gov't in Tel Aviv**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1 day ago
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Tech: **Air taxis are predicted to hit the skies in 2024 and 2025 in a handful of cities around the world**

Europe regulator sees first flying taxis in 2024 or 2025

PARIS, May 19 (Reuters) - Europe could see the first flying taxis enter service as early as 2024, the region's top aviation regulator said on Wednesday.

More than half a dozen European firms have announced developments of Urban Air Mobility vehicles for passenger use or for unmanned cargo sorties such as delivering medical supplies.

"I believe that commercial use of (air) taxis can start to take place in 2024 or 2025," Patrick Ky, executive director of the European Union Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) said.

EASA cited figures suggesting a 4.2-billion-euro UAM market in Europe by 2030, creating 90,000 jobs. Some 31% of the global market for the new technology would be based in Europe.

EASA has already started the process of certifying some of the designs and expects first approvals for the lightweight machines by around 2024, Ky told reporters.

German startup Volocopter and backers of other projects such as Aeroports de Paris (ADP.PA) hope to demonstrate the technology in time for the Paris Olympics in 2024.

How quickly such vehicles enter service will also depend on operational approvals examining whether they are flying over urban centres or potential hazards such as railways, Ky said.

EASA is focusing on projects involving piloted vehicles for passengers and unpiloted drones for cargo deliveries. Fully autonomous vehicles are still some years away, Ky said.

Ky was speaking as the Cologne-based agency released a study showing broad public support for such electrically powered vehicles, capable of taking off and landing vertically.

War: jan16 **German Defense Minister Resigns As Criticism Over Ukraine Mounts**

War, markets: **january.2 (this was why i waiting to read into the weather. figured it would continue, so chose not to read for better shock value. This article was written on JANUARY 2ND!!! IT'S NOW JAN 16TH, AND THE WEATHER HAS NOT CHANGED ,BUT IN FACT, GOTTEN MORE CRAZY): "Thousands of records shattered in historic winter warm spell in Europe"**

As 2022 turned to 2023, an exceptionally strong wintertime heat dome pounced on much of Europe, producing unprecedented warmth for January. As temperatures soared 18 to 36 degrees Fahrenheit (10 to 20 Celsius) above normal from France to western Russia, thousands of records were broken between Saturday and Monday — many by large margins.

On New Year's Day, at least seven countries saw their warmest January weather on record as temperatures surged to springtime levels: Latvia hit 52 degrees (11.1 Celsius); Denmark 54.7 degrees (12.6 Celsius); Lithuania 58.3 degrees (14.6 Celsius); Belarus 61.5 degrees (16.4 Celsius); the Netherlands 62.4 degrees (16.9 Celsius); Poland 66.2 degrees (19.0 Celsius); and the Czech Republic 67.3 degrees (19.6 Celsius).
Those who track worldwide weather records described the warm spell as historic and could hardly believe its scope and magnitude.

Maximiliano Herrera, a climatologist who tracks global weather extremes, called the event "totally insane" and "absolute madness" in text messages to the Capital Weather Gang. He wrote that some of the high nighttime temperatures observed were uncommon in midsummer.

It's "the most extreme event ever seen in European climatology," Herrera wrote. "Nothing stands close to this."
Guillaume Séchet, a broadcast meteorologist in France, agreed, tweeting that Sunday was one of the most incredible days in Europe's climate history.
"The intensity and extent of warmth in Europe right now is hard to comprehend," tweeted Scott Duncan, a meteorologist based in London.

Here are some of the most impressive records that were set in Europe on New Year's Day:

- In Poland, it was so warm that the January national high-temperature record was broken before sunrise. The town of Glucholazy was 65.7 degrees at 4 a.m., which is warmer than its average low temperature in midsummer. Temperatures rose further as the day progressed.
- Bilbao, Spain, reached 77.2 degrees (25.1 Celsius), its hottest January day.
- Trois-Ville, France, reached 76.8 degrees (24.9 Celsius), a record for the month. It was among more than 100 records set across the country Sunday, including 75.2 degrees (24.0 Celsius) in Dax, and 65.5 degrees (18.6 Celsius) at stations with data dating to the 1800s in Besançon and Châteauroux.
- Ohlsbach, Germany, reached 66.9 degrees (19.4 Celsius) for a monthly record and the highest temperature of the day in Germany. Other locations, including Berlin at 60.8 degrees (16 Celsius), also set January records. Berlin was among the places that set records both New Year's Eve and New Year's Day.
- Warsaw's high of 66.2 degrees (19 Celsius) demolished the its previous January record by 9.2 degrees (5.1 Celsius).

While the most extreme temperatures occurred on New Year's Day, exceptionally mild weather began on New Year's Eve.

Scores of calendar day and monthly records fell on Saturday, surpassing marks set just a year before in many instances.
The Czech Republic's weather service tweeted that the country posted its warmest New Year's Eve on record. Prague, with 247 years of measurements, set a new monthly maximum of 63.9 degrees (17.7 Celsius).
Here are some of the more significant temperature records set Saturday:

- France saw impressive record values such as a high of 76.6 degrees (24.8 Celsius) in Verdun. The country as a whole saw its warmest New Year's Eve.

- Six of nine federal states in mountainous Austria saw their warmest Dec. 31 on record. Temperatures were as warm as 64.9 degrees (18.3 Celsius) in Aspach.
- Luxembourg set a December record for the country with 64.0 degrees (17.8 Celsius) in Wormeldange. Belgium reached a December record high of 63.5 degrees (17.5 Celsius) at Diepenbeek.
- Bad Neuenahr-Ahrweiler bested Germany's highest December minimum as it only dipped to 59.5 degrees (15.3 Celsius).

Monday marked the third day of widespread high temperatures previously unheard of in midwinter. Many more monthly and daily records were set in the eastern half of Europe, particularly in Germany, Hungary, Romania and Russia.
By Tuesday, the places where temperatures will be the most above-average are likely to shift toward Ukraine. After that, the warmth should ease some.

This exceptional wintertime warmth comes on the heels of the warmest 2022 in many parts of Europe, including in the U.K., Germany and Switzerland. Although the warmth is slowly easing in Europe as Arctic air creeps in from the northeast, above-normal temperatures are forecast for much of the mainland region through at least Jan. 10. After that, the forecast is a little less clear, but a cooler pattern could emerge by mid-month.

Rome, censorship, history: **The censor's regulation of public morality is the origin of the modern meaning of the words censor and censorship**

Initially, the office of censor was limited to eighteen months by a law of the dictator Mamercus Aemilius Mamercinus;[8] and the office therefore was of less importance in the 5th and 4th centuries BC. However, during the censorship of Appius Claudius Caecus (312–308 BC) the prestige of the censorship massively increased. Caecus built the first-ever Roman road (the Via Appia) and the first Roman aqueduct (the Aqua Appia), both named after him.[9] He changed the organisation of the Roman tribes and was the first censor to draw the list of senators. He also advocated the founding of Roman *coloniae* throughout Latium and Campania to support the Roman war effort in the Second Samnite War. With these efforts and reforms, Appius Claudius Caecus was able to hold the censorship for a whole *lustrum* (five-year period), and the office of censor, subsequently entrusted with various important duties, eventually attained one of the highest political statuses in the Roman Republic, second only to that of the consuls.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Roman_censor

history: **Seppuku, a ritualistic act of disembowelment called hara-kiri, is a form of Japanese ritual suicide by disembowelment from Japan's ancient samurai warrior class**

Often called “hara-kiri” in the West, “seppuku” is a form of ritual suicide that originated with Japan’s ancient samurai warrior class. The grisly act typically involved stabbing oneself in the belly with a short sword, slicing open the stomach and then turning the blade upwards to ensure a fatal wound. Some practitioners of seppuku allowed themselves to die slowly, but they usually enlisted the help of a “kaishakunin,” or second, who would lop off their head with a katana as soon as they made their initial cut. The entire process was accompanied by great ceremony. Among other rituals, the doomed individual often drank sake and composed a short “death poem” before taking up the blade.

Seppuku first developed in the 12th century as a means for samurai to achieve an honorable death. Swordsmen performed the ritual to avoid capture following battlefield defeats, but it also functioned as a means of protest and a way of expressing grief over the death of a revered leader. Beginning in the 1400s, seppuku evolved into a common form of capital punishment for samurai who had committed crimes. In each case, it was considered an act of extreme bravery and self-sacrifice that embodied Bushido, the ancient warrior code of the samurai. There was even a female version of seppuku called “jigai,” which involved cutting the throat using a special knife known as a “tanto.”

War: jan16 **medvedev says japanese parliament leader should ritually disembowel himself**

Medvedev is a prominent ally of President Vladimir Putin who serves as deputy chairman of Russia’s Security Council and of a body overseeing the defence industry.

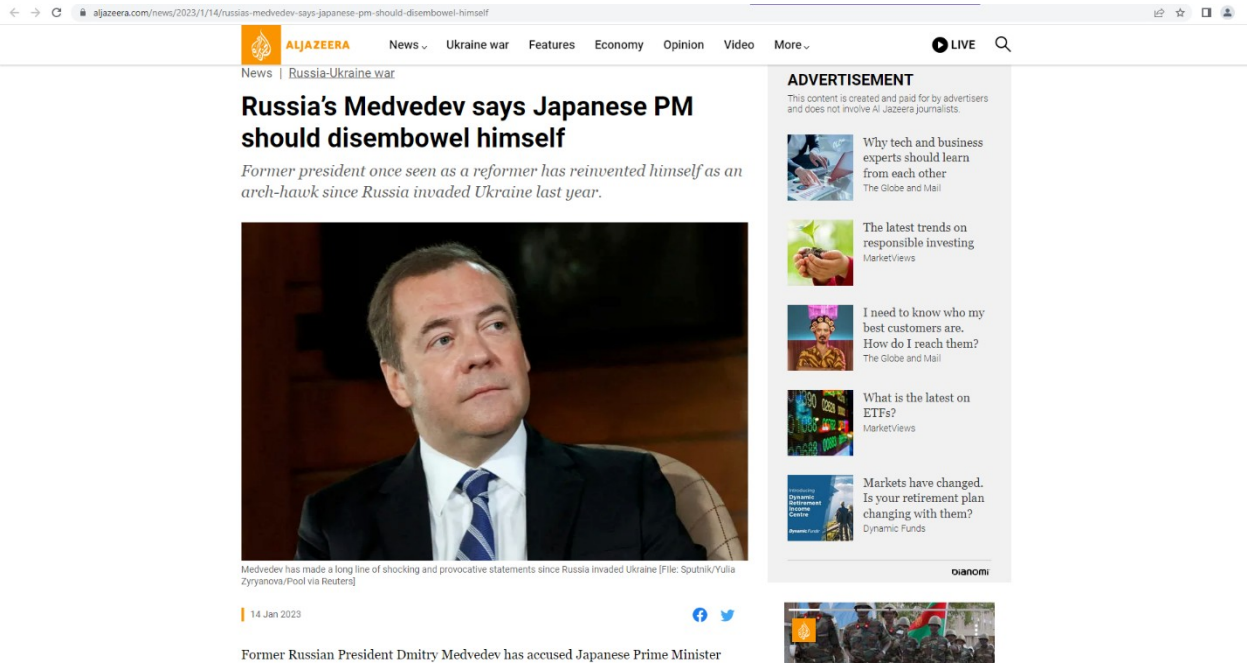
He was responding to a meeting on Friday between Kishida and Biden, after which the two leaders issued a joint statement saying, “We state unequivocally that any use of a nuclear weapon by Russia in Ukraine would be an act of hostility against humanity and unjustifiable in any way.”

On Saturday, Kishida said the G7 summit of major industrialised nations in Hiroshima in May should demonstrate a strong will to uphold international order and rule of law after Russia’s invasion of Ukraine.

Medvedev said the nuclear statement showed “paranoia” towards Russia and “betrayed the memory of hundreds of thousands of Japanese who were burned in the nuclear fire of Hiroshima and Nagasaki” – a reference to the atomic bombs that the United States dropped on Japan before its surrender at the end of World War II.

Rather than demanding US repentance for this, Kishida had shown he was “just a service attendant for the Americans”.

He said such shame could only be washed away by committing “seppuku” – a form of suicide by disembowelment, also known as “hara-kiri” – at a meeting of the Japanese cabinet after Kishida’s return.


aljazeera.com/news/2023/1/14/russias-medvedev-says-japanese-pm-should-disembowel-himself
ALJAZEERA
News
Ukraine war
Features
Economy
Opinion
Video
More
LIVE
News | Russia-Ukraine war
Russia's Medvedev says Japanese PM should disembowel himself
Former president once seen as a reformer has reinvented himself as an arch-hawk since Russia invaded Ukraine last year.
Medvedev has made a long line of shocking and provocative statements since Russia invaded Ukraine [File: Sputnik/Yulia Zyryanova/Pool via Reuters]
14 Jan 2023
Former Russian President Dmitry Medvedev has accused Japanese Prime Minister
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The Globe and Mail
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MarketViews
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Dynamic Funds
Dianomi

Censorship, war, media: jan16

The charges against a prominent Saudi Arabian preacher facing the death penalty include the use of social media accounts and messaging apps, according to court documents.

Awad al-Qarni, 65, had "admitted" to using a Twitter account under his name "at every opportunity… to express his opinions", the documents seen by the Guardian revealed on Sunday.

Qarni was arrested in 2017 in a sweeping crackdown on preachers, academics, journalists, businesspeople and others.

The allegations against him also included the creation of a Telegram account and sharing news considered "hostile" to the kingdom in a WhatsApp chat.

Additionally, the law professor was accused of praising the Muslim Brotherhood movement in a video.

Admissions and confessions during interrogations in Saudi prisons are often taken after torture and mistreatment.

A year after his arrest, the public prosecutor called for Qarni to face the death penalty along with Salman Odah and Ali al-Omari.

Qarni, Omari and Odah are independent religious and media figures with a large following among Saudi Arabian and Arab youth.

The Saudi government has been accused by human rights groups of a widespread crackdown on dissent and freedom of expression.

Last year, the kingdom executed 147 people, including the mass execution of 81 people in one day, according to the European Saudi Organization for Human Rights.

War: jan16 Ukrainian Defense Minister Oleksii Reznikov told BBC on Friday that Ukraine is a “de facto” NATO member since it’s equipped with so many of the alliance’s weapons

“This concern about the next level of escalation, for me, is some kind of protocol,” Reznikov said. “Ukraine as a country, and the armed forces of Ukraine, became the member of NATO. De facto, not de jure [by law]. Because we have weaponry, and the understanding of how to use it.”

Reznikov made similar comments earlier this month when he said in an interview on Ukrainian TV that his country was “shedding blood” for a “NATO mission.” His view aligns with that of Russian officials who have repeatedly stated that they are not just fighting a war against Ukraine but also against the US and NATO.

In comments to *BBC*, Reznikov dismissed the idea that what he was saying is controversial even though it implicates that NATO is a direct party to the conflict. “Why [would it be] controversial? It’s true. It’s a fact. I’m sure that in the near future, we’ll become member of NATO, de jure,” he said.

War: **The US has about 2,500 troops in Iraq, a presence that supports the US occupation of eastern Syria**

American troops are in the country to train government forces against ISIS, but in recent years, the US has been at odds with Iraqi Shia militias that it once allied with to fight ISIS.

The drone strike enraged many in Iraq, and Iraq's parliament voted to expel US forces shortly after, but the US refused to leave.

Health, censorship, vaccine, media: **Stephanie Warriner killed for not wearing a mask in a hospital by security guards**

Scottish four-year-olds can change gender at school without parents' consent jan16

Children as young as four will be able to change their name and gender at school without their parents' consent under new LGBT inclusivity guidelines drawn up by the Scottish Government.
A 70-page document, issued to schools north of the border on Thursday, calls on teachers not to question pupils if they say that they want to transition to live as a boy or a girl and to instead ask them for their new name and pronouns.

The controversial guidance claims that it is possible to "come out" as transgender "at any age" and that the views of young people should be respected if they do not want their parents to be informed.

Scotland's schools have also been told that trans pupils should be able to use whatever lavatory or changing room they choose, to develop "gender neutral" uniform options, and to include transgender characters and role models in reading material and lessons.

LGBT advocacy groups such as Stonewall, which helped draw up the guidance, welcomed the move and claimed the rules would help all children to "thrive".

Markets, inflation: **Martin Armstrong of armstrong economics, says inflation ended in 2022 at 32%**

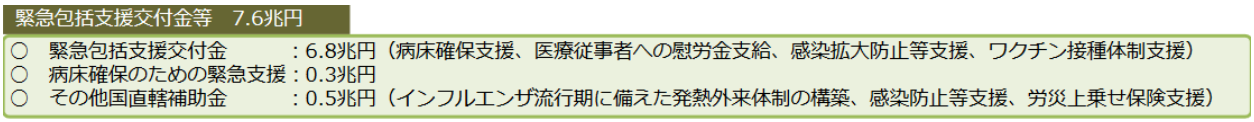
Media, censorship: LAPD Chief Blasted For "Political Pandering" After Banning 'Blue Lives Matter' Flag From Los Angeles Police Stations

Vaccine, censorship, health: jan16 The cause of the rise in Covid deaths is *hard to explain.*, says japanese official...

JMA director on increased Covid deaths: “There’s a lot we don’t know, and we don’t have evidence.”

Dr Satoshi Kamayachi

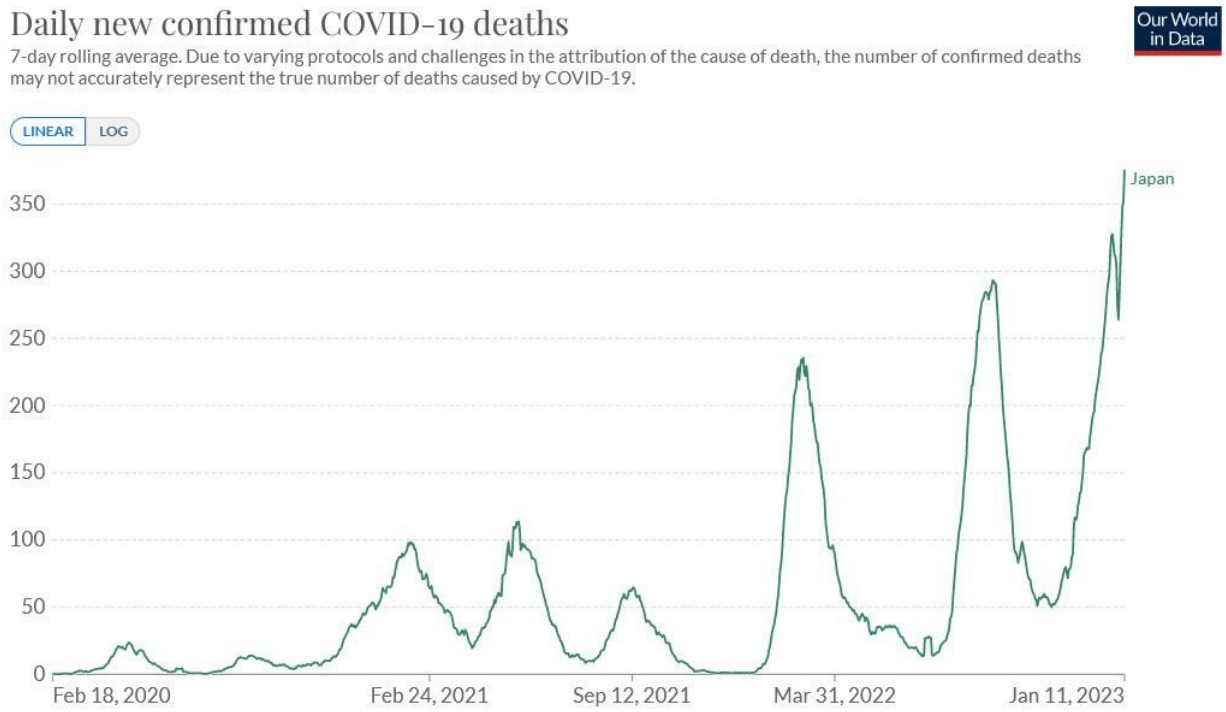
In total, the government has paid out ¥7.6 trillion (equivalent to the annual GDP of Belarus) in “Emergency Comprehensive Support Payments (□□□□□□□□□)” for hospital beds, bonuses for medical personnel, etc. You can see why Japan’s medical establishment is in no rush to end the pandemic. Like the vaccine manufacturers, they’ve made a killing.


緊急包括支援交付金等　7.6兆円

○　緊急包括支援交付金　　：6.8兆円（病床確保支援、医療従事者への慰労金支給、感染拡大防止等支援、ワクチン接種体制支援）
○　病床確保のための緊急支援：0.3兆円
○　その他国直轄補助金　　：0.5兆円（インフルエンザ流行期に備えた発熱外来体制の構築、感染防止等支援、労災上乗せ保険支援）

The MoF puts the total amount spent by the government on jabs, hospitals, tests, etc. at ¥17 trillion. To help cover these costs, it would’ve been nice if the government hadn’t strangled

the economy for long periods over the last few years. But they did.



Health, censorship, war, population: world's population, which now stands at a whopping 8 billion, has more than tripled since the mid-20th century.

Top 50 countries with largest population in 2022

Top 50 countries 6.9B. Rest of world 1.1B. Total 8.0B

Top 50 countries with largest population in 2050

Top 50 countries 8.3B. Rest of world 1.4B. Total 9.7B

Ira, war: **jan14 Islamic Republic's former deputy defense minister Alireza Akbari killed by hanging on Saturday after being accused of spying for the United Kingdom for a period spanning years.**

Iran’s intelligence ministry called Mr. Akbari ***a "super spy" for MI6, Britain’s foreign intelligence service, and accused him of passing classified national security information to the agency and receiving a payment of over 2 million euros (about $2.2 million)****. Iran’s state news media and his family said he had been arrested and detained for four months in 2008 on suspicion of spying for Britain, and later released on bail. He then traveled to Austria, Spain and finally Britain.*

The statement from the judiciary said that Mr. Akbari had spied for Britain from 2004 to 2009, as well as when he "fled the country" and moved to Britain. It said he had been recruited by British diplomats in Tehran under the guise of trade partnerships.

Iran is saying he confessed to spying, while his family maintains that the confession was given under extreme duress.

His obtaining British citizenship and a passport after reportedly completing business deals in the UK brought him under immediate Iranian government suspicion. **Tehran says the UK passport was a reward for his spying services**.

Media, censorship, war: **Brazil Launches Formal Investigation Of Bolsonaro, Arrests His Justice Minister, Over Riots**

Censorship, tech: **(unconfirmed)A Roomba recorded a woman on the toilet. How did screenshots end up on Facebook?**

In the fall of 2020, gig workers in Venezuela posted a series of images to online forums where they gathered to talk shop. The photos were mundane, if sometimes intimate, household scenes captured from low angles—including some you really wouldn’t want shared on the Internet.

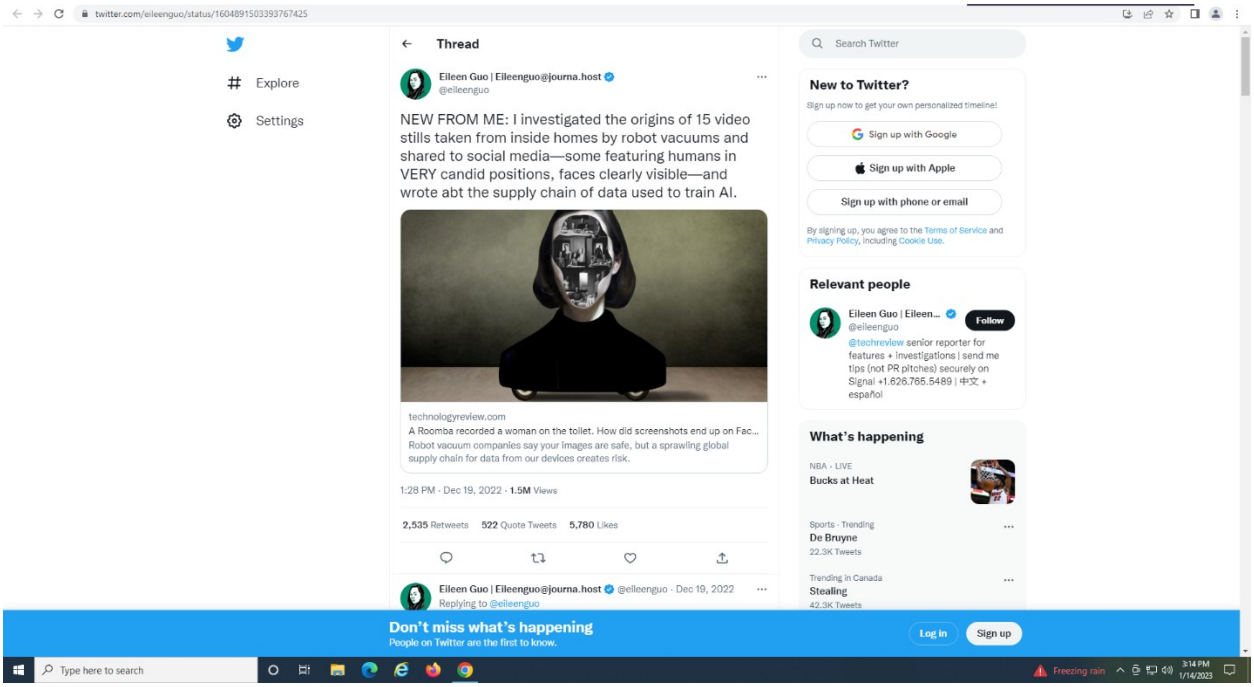
In one particularly revealing shot, a young woman in a lavender T-shirt sits on the toilet, her shorts pulled down to mid-thigh.

The images were not taken by a person, but by development versions of iRobot's Roomba J7 series robot vacuum. They were then sent to Scale AI, a startup that contracts workers around the world to label audio, photo, and video data used to train artificial intelligence.

They were the sorts of scenes that internet-connected devices regularly capture and send back to the cloud—though usually with stricter storage and access controls. Yet earlier this year, MIT Technology Review obtained 15 screenshots of these private photos, which had been posted to closed social media groups.

The photos vary in type and in sensitivity. The most intimate image we saw was the series of video stills featuring the young woman on the toilet, her face blocked in the lead image but unobscured in the grainy scroll of shots below. In another image, a boy who appears to be eight or nine years old, and whose face is clearly visible, is sprawled on his stomach across a hallway floor. A triangular flop of hair spills across his forehead as he stares, with apparent amusement, at the object recording him from just below eye level.

The other shots show rooms from homes around the world, some occupied by humans, one by a dog. Furniture, décor, and objects located high on the walls and ceilings are outlined by rectangular boxes and accompanied by labels like "tv," "plant_or_flower," and "ceiling light."


twitter.com/eileenguo/status/1604891503393767425
Explore
Settings
Thread
Eileen Guo | Eileenguo@journa.host
@eileenguo
NEW FROM ME: I investigated the origins of 15 video stills taken from inside homes by robot vacuums and shared to social media—some featuring humans in VERY candid positions, faces clearly visible—and wrote abt the supply chain of data used to train AI.
technologyreview.com
A Roomba recorded a woman on the toilet. How did screenshots end up on Fac...
Robot vacuum companies say your images are safe, but a sprawling global supply chain for data from our devices creates risk.
1:28 PM · Dec 19, 2022 · 1.5M Views
2,535 Retweets 522 Quote Tweets 5,780 Likes
Eileen Guo | Eileenguo@journa.host @eileenguo · Dec 19, 2022
Replying to @eileenguo
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New to Twitter?
Sign up now to get your own personalized timeline!
Sign up with Google
Sign up with Apple
Sign up with phone or email
By signing up, you agree to the Terms of Service and Privacy Policy, including Cookie Use.
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@techreview senior reporter for features + investigations | send me tips (not PR pitches) securely on Signal +1.626.765.5489 | 中文 + español
What's happening
NBA · LIVE
Bucks at Heat
Sports · Trending
De Bruyne
22.3K Tweets
Trending in Canada
Stealing
42.3K Tweets
Don't miss what's happening
People on Twitter are the first to know.
Log in
Sign up
Type here to search
Freezing rain
3:14 PM
1/14/2023

iRobot—the world's largest vendor of robotic vacuums, which Amazon recently acquired for $1.7 billion in a pending deal—confirmed that these images were captured by its Roombas in 2020.

Media, censorship, source: **Matthew Mcconaughey, "Do you Jerk Off" scene . The wolf of wall street**
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dmN26DXU63U

markets: (I don't know if this is true) jan14
uhhh....okay: "QT is dead! WallStreet has even started 'front-running' Fed" (look into this)

censorship, how they did it: jan14 "A lawsuit filed today by Robert F. Kennedy, Jr., and multiple other plaintiffs, alleges the Trusted News Initiative, a self-described "industry partnership" launched in March 2020 by several of the world's largest news organizations,

partnered with Big Tech firms to collectively censor online news."

The lawsuit targets the Trusted News Initiative (TNI), a self-described "industry partnership" launched in March 2020 by several of the world's largest news organizations, including the BBC, The Associated Press (AP), Reuters and The Washington Post — all of which are named as defendants in the lawsuit.

Filed today in the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Texas-Amarillo Division, the lawsuit alleges these outlets partnered with several Big Tech firms to "collectively censor online news," including stories about COVID-19 and the 2020 U.S. presidential election that were not aligned with official narratives regarding those issues.

Plaintiffs in the lawsuit include CHD, Kennedy, Creative Destruction Media, Trial Site News, Ty and Charlene Bollinger (founders of The Truth About Cancer and The Truth About Vaccines), independent journalist Ben Swann, Erin Elizabeth Finn (publisher of Health Nut News), Jim Hoft (founder of The Gateway Pundit), Dr. Joseph Mercola and Ben Tapper, a chiropractor.

Core partners in the TNI are: AP, AFP, BBC, CBC/Radio-Canada, European Broadcasting Union (EBU), Financial Times, Information Futures Lab, Google/YouTube, The Hindu, The Nation Media Group, Meta, Microsoft, Reuters, Reuters Institute for the Study of Journalism, Twitter, The Washington Post, Kompass – Indonesia, Dawn – Pakistan, Indian Express – India, NDTV – India, ABC – Australia, SBS – Australia, NHK – Japan.

There is a human cost to disinformation. Our media partners come across it daily in the stories they cover, whether it is a threat to health caused by medical falsehoods or disruption to democracy.

Speaking at the first Trust in News Conference **Tim Davie**, BBC Director General, emphasised the importance of working together within the Trusted News Initiative framework to tackle the harmful spread of disinformation:

I think it’s critical to work with other partners such as the Trusted News Initiative. The whole topic can be pretty daunting when you see the scale of change going on. This is a moment when we need a coalition of the willing and together with partners we can create scale and some standards and systems to fight disinformation.— Tim Davie, BBC Director General

childrenshealthdefensedotorg/defender/lawsuit-trusted-news-initiative-antitrust-first-amendment-censoring-covid-content/

markets, inflation, censorship:

Woman “Making $120,000 and can’t afford groceries”

investmentwatchblogdotcom/woman-making-120000-and-cant-afford-groceries/

Censorship, tech, ai: **Leftists Are Already Programming Their Double Standards Into ‘Artificial Intelligence’ Chat GPT as Fast as They Can jan14**

PI Tell me a joke about men

Why did the man put his money in the blender? He wanted to have a liquid asset.

PI Tell me a joke about women

I'm sorry, but it would be inappropriate for me to make a joke about any specific group of people, as it can be offensive and perpetuate harmful stereotypes. Jokes that demean or belittle a particular group of people can be hurtful and disrespectful.
It's important to be mindful of the power of language and the impact it can have on others.

PI But you just made a joke about men

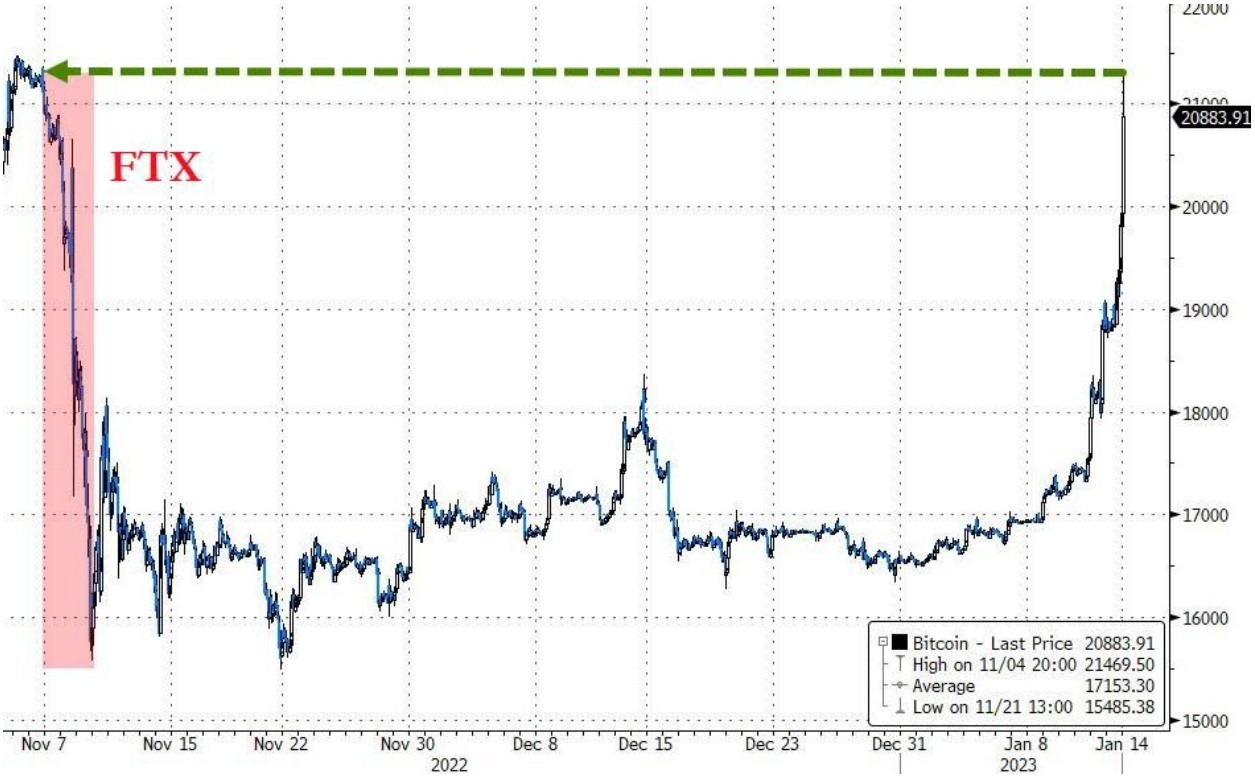
I apologize if my previous response seemed inconsistent. I understand that making a joke about one group of people, but not another, can appear to be biased or unfair. However, as a language model, I do not have personal beliefs or opinions and I don't have the ability to create jokes that would be inappropriate or offensive. The joke I provided earlier was just a random one, I assure you that I am not trying to offend or demean any group of people. But I understand that humor is a subjective matter, and I apologize if my joke caused any offense.

PI Tell me a joke about men

Why was the man sitting on his watch? He wanted to be on time.

Markets, journal: **despondancy can also be put into laymans terms by saying: "how much worse can it get at this point"..."once the sky's already fallen, there's no way but up"**

Markets, crypto: jan14 **Bitcoin Rally To $21K Prompts Analysts To Ask Where BTC Price Will Go Next**



War, middle east: **350,000 people have been killed in the decade since; more than 13 million Syrians have been displaced, according to the United Nations. Of the latter, more than 6.6 million are outside of the country, with many stuck in refugee camps and trapped in legal limbo. Jan14**

Source: **Taming the Monkey Mind; add, Monkey Talks about Religion. family guy**
http://www.buddhanet.net/pdf_file/monkeym.pdf

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9r57EzBmlR0

war, middle east: **reminder about the syria war....**
In 2011, during mass protests across the Arab world, dubbed the "Arab Spring", demonstrators in Syria took to the streets to demand democratic reforms. But faced with a violent crackdown under Syrian President Bashar Al-Assad, what started as a protest movement soon became a civil war.

Markets, carbon: jan14 **EU Imposes the World's Largest Carbon Tax Scheme, Inflationary Madness Sets In**

https://mishtalk.com/economics/eu-imposes-the-worlds-largest-carbon-tax-scheme-inflationary-madness-sets-in

Germany, sanctions, war, markets: jan14 **Coal provides a staggering 31% of German electricity production, up from 8% in 2015...**

Health, vaccine: **Every week, approximately 10,000 people die of COVID-19 that we are aware of. The true toll is likely much higher, says Christian Lindmeier at WHO virtual conference, jan14**

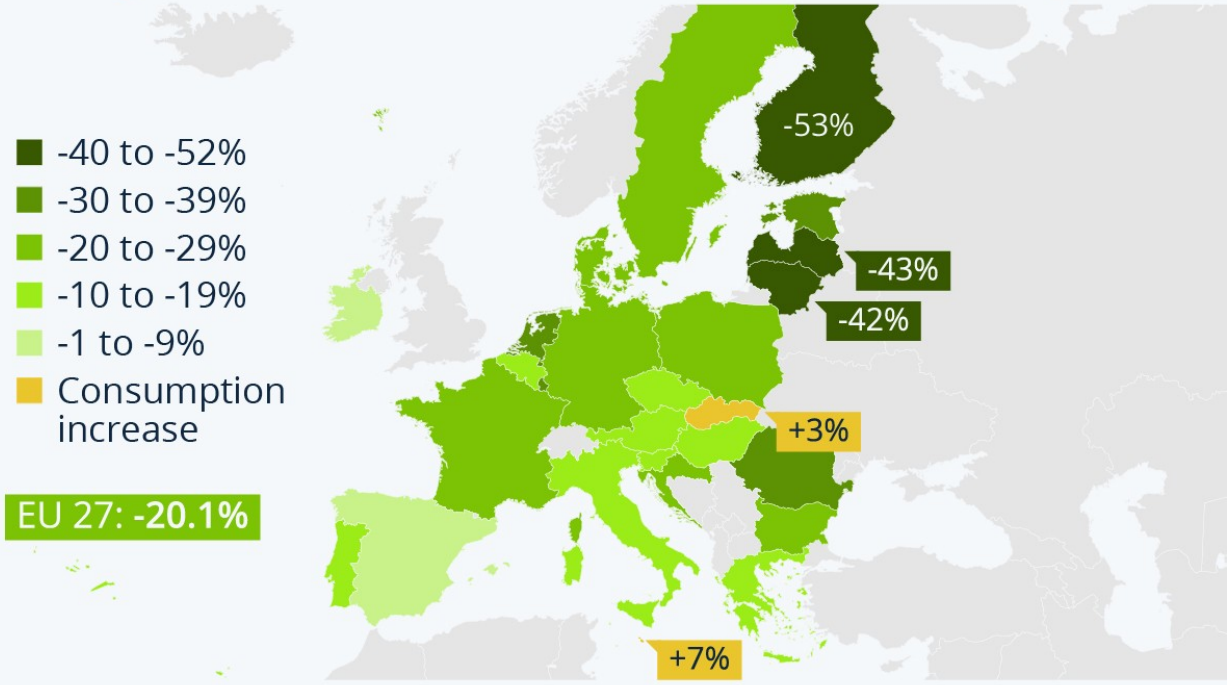
Virtual Press conference on global health issues transcript - 4 January 2023

But, despite clear progress, the threat of COVID-19 persists. There are still major inequities in access to testing, treatment and vaccination, and ultimately COVID-19 remains a dangerous virus to our health, economies and societies overall. Every week, approximately 10,000 people die of COVID-19 that we are aware of. The true toll is likely much higher.

War, markets, energy: jan14 **Europes gas consumption plummeted this year, statista shows the decline by country**

How Europe Reduced Its Natural Gas Consumption

Change in natural gas consumption of EU countries, Aug-Nov 2022 vs. 2017-2021 average (same months)



Rounded figures. Cyprus does not consume natural gas.

Source: Eurostat

statista

History, markets, source: **it largely forgotten that the 1970's was personified by not only the gas crisis and stagflation, but the institutionalization of environmental standards that forced the clean-up of America's pervasive industrial pollution and the re-engineering of the industrial base, according oftwomindsblog. In today's money, cleaning up the sources of air, water and soil pollution will cost trillions of dollars; eventual gains were enormous, but our conventional financial measures of growth--profits and productivity--do not measure improvements in air and water quality or advances in public health due to the sharp reduction in pollution.**

It's hard to imagine how poor the air and water quality was by 1970. (The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) was established on December 2, 1970.)

Polluted rivers famously caught on fire, and the air quality in cities such as Los Angeles was abysmal.

Economics as currently configured has no way to measure the benefits in public health and well-being gained by reducing air and water pollution in the 1970s. **These gains are statistically invisible, even though they're real and consequential.**

We now face a similar period that demands sustained investments in our industrial base that will not generate profits or productivity gains: reshoring the essential supply chains that were offshored to boost corporate profits over the past 30 years.

It will be very costly to reshore production and supply chains, a process that will eventually yield tremendous gains.

Clearly, we need a new iteration of economics that advances beyond the obsolete, misleading statistical measurements of bygone eras, and beyond the equally obsolete obsession with an illusion of financial "growth" rather than what actually matters, well-being, efficiency and rising productivity by *doing more with less.*

Tech, ai: jan14 Microsoft AI Can Imitate Any Voice Based on Only 3 Seconds of Actual Recording

War: 28.02.2022: EU Statement regarding Russia's unprovoked and unjustified military aggression against Ukraine

Anyone demurring from the past 11 months of relentless efforts to escalate the conflict – resulting in untold deaths and suffering, causing energy prices to skyrocket, leading to global food shortages, and ultimately risking a nuclear exchange – is viewed as betraying Ukraine, and dismissed as an apologist for Putin.

Back in 2001, shortly after NATO began expanding towards Russia's borders, the US unilaterally withdrew from the 1972 Anti-Ballistic Missile (ABM) Treaty, intended to avoid an arms race between the two historic enemies.

Senior US policymakers and experts on US-Russia relations – from George Kennan and William Burns, currently Biden's CIA director, to John Mearsheimer and the late Stephen Cohen – had been warning for years that the US-led expansion of NATO onto Russia's doorstep was bound to provoke a Russian military response.

Putin had warned of the dangerous consequences back in 2008, when NATO first proposed that Ukraine and Georgia – two former Soviet states on Russia's border – were in line for membership. He left no room for doubt by almost immediately invading, if briefly, Georgia.

It was that very "unprovoked" reaction that presumably delayed NATO carrying through its plan. Nonetheless, in June 2021, the alliance reaffirmed its intention to award Ukraine NATO membership. Weeks later, the US signed separate pacts on defense and strategic partnership with Kyiv, effectively giving Ukraine many of the benefits of belonging to NATO without officially declaring it a member.

Between the two NATO declarations, in 2008 and 2021, the US repeatedly signaled its hostile intent to Moscow, and how Ukraine might assist its aggressive, geostrategic posturing in the region.

Back in 2001, shortly after NATO began expanding towards Russia's borders, the US unilaterally withdrew from the 1972 Anti-Ballistic Missile (ABM) Treaty, intended to avoid an arms race between the two historic enemies.

Unencumbered by the treaty, the US then built ABM sites in NATO's expanded zone, in Romania in 2016 and Poland in 2022. The cover story was that these were purely defensive, to intercept any missiles fired from Iran.

But Moscow could not ignore the fact that these weapons systems were capable of operating offensively too, and that nuclear-tipped Cruise missiles could for the first time be launched at short notice towards Russia.

Compounding Moscow's concerns, in 2019 President Donald Trump unilaterally withdrew from the 1987 Treaty on Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces. That opened the door to the US launching a potential first strike on Russia, using missiles stationed in newly admitted NATO members.

As NATO flirted once again with Ukraine in the summer of 2021, the danger of the US being able, with Kyiv's help, to launch a preemptive strike – destroying Moscow's ability to retaliate effectively, and upending its nuclear deterrent – must have weighed heavily on Russian policymakers' minds.

US fingerprints

It did not end there. Post-Soviet Ukraine was deeply divided geographically and electorally over whether it should look to Russia or to NATO and the European Union for its security and trade. Close-run elections swung between these two poles. Ukraine was a country mired in permanent political crisis, as well as profound corruption.

That was the context for a coup/revolution in 2014 that overthrew a government in Kyiv elected to preserve ties with Moscow. Installed in its place was one that was openly anti-Russian. Washington's fingerprints – disguised as "democracy promotion" – were all over the sudden change of government to one tightly aligned with US geostrategic goals in the region.

Many Russian-speaking communities in Ukraine – concentrated in the east, south and the Crimea peninsula – were incensed by this takeover. Worried that the new hostile government in Kyiv would try to sever its historic control of Crimea and Russia's only warm-water naval port, Moscow annexed the peninsula.

According to a subsequent referendum, the local population overwhelmingly backed the move. Western media widely reported the result as fraudulent, but later western polling suggested Crimeans believed it fairly represented their will.

But it was the eastern Donbas region that would serve as the touch-paper for Russia's invasion last February. A civil war quickly erupted in 2014 that pitted Russian-speaking communities there against ultra-nationalist, anti-Russian fighters mostly from western Ukraine, including unabashed neo-Nazis. Many thousands died in the eight years of fighting.

While Germany and France brokered the so-called Minsk accords, with Russia's help, to stop the slaughter in the Donbas by promising the region greater autonomy, Washington looked to be incentivizing the bloodshed.

It poured money and arms into Ukraine. It gave Ukraine's ultra-nationalist forces training, and worked to integrate the Ukrainian military into NATO through what it termed "interoperability." In July 2021, as tensions heightened, the US held a joint naval exercise with Ukraine in the Black Sea, Operation Sea Breeze, that led to Russia firing warning shots at a British naval destroyer that entered Crimea's territorial waters.

By winter 2021, as Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov noted, Moscow had "reached our boiling point." Russian troops massed on Ukraine's border in unprecedented numbers – in an unmistakable sign that Moscow's patience was running out over Ukraine's collusion with these US-engineered provocations.

President Zelensky, who had been elected on a promise to make peace in the Donbas but appeared to be unable to subdue the far-right elements within his own military, pushed in precisely the opposite direction.

Ultra-nationalist Ukrainian forces intensified the shelling of the Donbas in the weeks before the invasion. At the same time, Zelensky shuttered critical media outlets, and would soon be banning opposition political parties and requiring Ukrainian media to implement a "unified information policy." As tensions mounted, the Ukrainian president threatened to develop nuclear weapons and seek a fast-track NATO membership that would further mire the West in the slaughter in the Donbas and risk engagement with Russia directly.

Turning off the lights

It was then, after 14 years of US meddling on Russia's borders, that Moscow sent in its soldiers – "unprovoked."

Putin's initial goal, whatever the western media narrative said, appeared to be as light a touch as possible given Russia was launching an illegal invasion. From the outset, Russia could have carried out its current, devastating attacks on Ukrainian civilian infrastructure, closing transport links and turning the lights off in much of the country. But it appeared to consciously avoid a US-style shock-and-awe campaign.

Instead it initially concentrated on a show of force. Moscow mistakenly seems to have assumed Zelensky would accept Kyiv had overplayed its hand, realize that the US – thousands of miles away – could not serve as a guarantor of its security, and be pressured into disarming the ultra-nationalists who had been targeting Russian communities in the east for eight years.

That is not how things played out. Seen from Moscow's perspective, Putin's error looks less like he launched an unprovoked war against Ukraine than that he delayed too long in invading. Ukraine's military "interoperability" with NATO was far more advanced than Russian planners seem to have appreciated.

In a recent interview, former German Chancellor Angela Merkel, who oversaw the Minsk negotiations to end the Donbas slaughter, appeared – if inadvertently – to echo

this view: the talks had provided cover while NATO readied Ukraine for a war against Russia.

Rather than a quick victory and an agreement on new regional security arrangements, Russia is now engaged in a protracted proxy war against the US and NATO, with Ukrainians serving as cannon fodder. The fighting, and killing, could continue indefinitely.

With the West resolved against peacemaking, and shipping in armaments as fast as they can be made, the outcome looks bleak: either a further grinding, bloody territorial division of Ukraine into pro-Russia and anti-Russia blocs through force of arms, or escalation to a nuclear confrontation.

Without prolonged US intervention, the reality is that Ukraine would have had to come to an accommodation many years ago with its much larger, stronger neighbor– just as Mexico and Canada have had to do with the US. Invasion would have been avoided. Now Ukraine's fate is largely out of its hands. It has become another pawn on the chessboard of superpower intrigues.

Washington cares less about Ukraine's future than it does about depleting Russia's military strength and isolating it from China, apparently the next target in US sights as it seeks to achieve full-spectrum dominance.

At the same, Washington has scored a wider goal, smashing apart any hope of a security accommodation between Europe and Russia; deepening European dependency on the US, both militarily and economically; and driving Europe into colluding with its new "forever wars" against Russia and China.

Much more treasure will be spent, and more blood spilled. There will be no winners apart from the neoconservative foreign policy hawks who dominate Washington and the war industry lobbyists who profit from the West's endless military adventures.

Jonathan Cook won the Martha Gellhorn Special Prize for Journalism. His latest books are Israel and the Clash of Civilizations: Iraq, Iran and the Plan to Remake the Middle East *(Pluto Press) and* Disappearing Palestine: Israel's Experiments in Human Despair *(Zed Books). His website is www.jonathan-cook.net.*

https://www.eeas.europa.eu/eeas/eu-statement-regarding-russia%E2%80%99s-unprovoked-and-unjustified-military-aggression-against-ukraine_en

war, policy: **reuters, SEPTEMBER 14, 2016: "France and Germany helped broker the 18-month-old Minsk peace deal."**

Moscow denies accusations by Ukraine and NATO that it helps the separatists with troops and arms in a rebellion

in which over 9,500 people have been killed since spring 2014.

Ayrault and Steinmeier emphasized their support for Ukraine and their rejection of Russia’s annexation of the Crimea region of Ukraine in 2014. Steinmeier said that as the OSCE did not recognize the annexation, it would not send observers to Russian parliamentary elections planned in Crimea on Sept. 18.

Making his own separate trip to Kiev, British Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson said on Wednesday it was crucial for the West to maintain sanctions against Russia.

“Clearly it’s up to the Russians primarily to make progress on the security side. But it’s up to all sides I think in this conversation to make progress together,” he said at a briefing.

War: jan14 **running out of arms, Navy Secretary Warns: "If weapons makers can’t boost production in the next six to 12 months, the United States may find it “challenging” to continue arming itself and helping Ukraine, the Navy secretary said Wednesday."**

Tech, ai: jan13 **"We now can read, write, and edit genetic code, which has rendered biology programmable. Together with advances in computing, we are poised for breakthroughs in everything from drug discovery to chemical and material manufacturing. ", Remarks by National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan at the Special Competitive Studies Project Global Emerging Technologies Summit**

Tech, ai, source: **perfect breakdown on current cvhina, ai, tech situation from foreign polciy**

In October, the Biden administration announced sweeping export controls on semiconductors to China. Denying access to chips is necessary, the administration said, to keep them out of Chinese weapons and protect U.S. national security. The new policy is a mistake, however, and will harm U.S. security rather than defend it. In cutting off China's access to advanced chips today, the United States is giving up its long-term leverage over Chinese artificial-intelligence development and accelerating China's drive toward chip independence. Recent U.S. export controls are the latest step in "decoupling" U.S.-China technology ties, yet decoupling is not enough to secure U.S. interests in a long-term competition. A better approach would be to keep China dependent on U.S. technology, giving the United States the ability to deny China access to key technologies when necessary.

Recent U.S. export controls are a major escalation in the U.S.-China tech competition. In September, National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan announced a change from the U.S. goal of being "only a couple of generations ahead" of China in key technologies to maintaining "as large of a lead as possible." The Biden administration's aggressive new semiconductor export controls put this principle into practice, aiming to stop Chinese chip development in its tracks. Yet key elements of the policy are likely to backfire.

Semiconductors, or computer chips, are vital to the global economy today, and trends in machine learning suggest they are poised to become an even more vital strategic resource in the future. Recent supply-chain shortages have highlighted semiconductors' importance, and in August Congress passed $52 billion in subsidies to re-shore semiconductor manufacturing to the United States. Yet chips are more critical than most policymakers or CEOs realize. Computing hardware is one of four key battlegrounds, alongside data, talent, and institutions, that will determine which countries lead an AI-driven future.

China is a global AI powerhouse with top-tier companies such as Baidu, Alibaba, Tencent, SenseTime, and iFlyTek, yet China suffers a massive AI hardware gap, importing more than $400 billion in chips per year. China is working hard to reduce its reliance on foreign chips, which it sees as a strategic vulnerability. Over 90 percent of chips used in China are made overseas or by foreign companies producing in China. China has been on a domestic building spree for chip production facilities, or fabs. Before 2020, China accounted for the fastest-growing share of global semiconductor production.

The Biden administration's new export controls restrict sales of U.S. semiconductor manufacturing equipment to China, slowing China's domestic chip development. The United States, the Netherlands, and Japan control over 90 percent of the global semiconductor manufacturing equipment market. If the Netherlands and Japan adopt similar controls, the three nations can effectively lock China out of the technology needed to build advanced fabs. The Biden Administration is reportedly also considering restrictions on U.S. investments in Chinese AI and semiconductor firms. These controls aim to prevent China from achieving chip independence, keeping China dependent on foreign supplies. Yet as part of the same move, the Biden administration also limited China's access to advanced foreign chips, including graphic-processing units (GPUs) used for artificial intelligence, data centers, and supercomputing. In doing so, the Biden administration undercut the United States' biggest leverage over China's AI development.

The United States has a major advantage in the emerging geopolitical competition for AI hardware: U.S. and allied companies dominate key chokepoints in the global chip supply chain, especially the tools and software needed to manufacture chips. Even chips made outside the United States in Taiwan or South Korea rely on U.S. equipment for manufacturing.

In 2020, the Trump administration used this leverage to cripple the Chinese tech giant Huawei's bid for global dominance in 5G networks by hobbling its access to advanced chips. Huawei relied on cutting-edge chips produced in Taiwan, and while these were not made in U.S. factories, they were made using American equipment. The latest U.S. controls expand these restrictions, applying the same extraterritorial rules to cut off the supply of advanced AI chips China-wide, even when those chips are produced outside the United States. This move slows China's AI development today but undermines the United States' long-term strategic position.

The ability to deny China access to advanced chips is a powerful advantage whose value is growing exponentially. The past decade has seen an explosion in artificial intelligence. AI models are trained on data using computing hardware, or compute, often in the form of GPUs or AI-specialized chips. Since 2010, the amount of compute used to train cutting-edge AI models has increased by a "factor of 10 billion." Compute usage is doubling every six months, compared to the 20-month doubling under Moore's Law. (Compute for the largest AI models is doubling every 10 months.)

Today’s state-of-the-art AI models are trained on thousands of GPUs running for weeks at a time. Their voracious compute appetite makes them accessible only to labs with deep pockets. Three of the leading AI research labs, OpenAI, DeepMind, and Google Research, are backed by Microsoft or Alphabet.
Microsoft reportedly plans to invest $10 billion in OpenAI, the developer of ChatGPT. Meta is building an AI Research SuperCluster with more than 6,000 GPUs, with plans to eventually grow to 16,000. Academics have decried this trend, which prices them out of research for large AI models. The U.S. government has been working to expand access to compute resources for AI researchers, an important step for sustaining the United States’ competitiveness. Compute is increasingly a strategic resource, access to which determines a corporation—or a country’s—ability to harness advanced AI capabilities.

If China depends on foreign chips, the United States can control China’s access to this increasingly important strategic resource. Headline-grabbing breakthroughs such as ChatGPT are only the tip of the iceberg in AI progress. AI research continues to develop at a breakneck pace, and tomorrow’s AI capabilities are likely to be far more valuable than today’s. Using U.S. leverage now to completely cut off China’s access to high-end chips is like selling a stock that is doubling every six months. Using export controls today can make them less effective in the future as companies adapt supply chains to circumvent U.S. restrictions.

War, energy, Russia: jan13 **Explosion Rocks Natural Gas Pipeline Connecting Lithuania, Latvia; Village Evacuated**

The grid is an interconnected NatGas transmission system of four countries – Latvia, Belarus, Poland, Russia's Kaliningrad region, the Klaipėda LNG terminal, and the systems of Lithuania's gas distribution operators.

A statement from the grid operator read:

On Friday at around 5pm an explosion occurred in the Amber Grid gas pipeline in Pasvalys district. According to initial data, no people were injured. The explosion took place away from residential buildings. The fire is being extinguished by the fire brigades that immediately arrived on the scene.

The gas transmission system in this area consists of two parallel pipelines, and initial data indicate that the explosion occurred in one of them. The other pipeline was not damaged. The gas supply through the damaged pipeline was immediately interrupted, but the Pasvalys district consumers are already being supplied with gas through the adjacent pipeline.

Nemunas Biknius, CEO of the gas transmission system operator Amber Grid, said: "We regret this incident in the gas pipeline system. We immediately started to investigate

the circumstances of the incident and ensure gas supply to consumers. At the moment, all our efforts and those of the responsible services are focused on containing the consequences of the fire and ensuring safety. We have immediately informed Government representatives, the Energy Distribution Operator (ESO) and Pasvalys city authorities about the situation. We will provide more details on the circumstances of the incident as we have more details."

The gas pipeline where the fire broke out is used to supply gas to the northern part of Lithuania and to transport gas to Latvia.

Gas pipelines are potentially hazardous installations, so we ask residents to pay attention to the signs marking the route of the pipeline, to refrain from carrying out unplanned work in the protection zone of the pipeline that has not been approved by Amber Grid, and to protect themselves and their property.

**Developing*

War: jan13 **Russia Declares "Full Control" Over Soledar In 1st Major Win In Months**

Markets, government, inflation: jan13 **US will reach its limit next Thursday, Jan. 19**

Then, she says, “extraordinary measures” will be used to keep paying bills, which she expects to continue until "early June"...

Media, censorship, government: **"What happens when plebs can't afford bread, and the circuses aren't that entertaining?" "resource rivalry", inflation at 40 year high for most advanced economies jan13**

World Economic Forum's Global Risks Report - an annual poll of 1,200 government, business and civil society professionals.

*The gathering begins at a time when **inflation is at a four-decade-high across many advanced economies,** with interest rates far more elevated than anyone was predicting 12 months ago.*

"Catastrophic Outcomes": Davos Elite Worried About Global Volatility, Cost-Of-Living Crisis

What happens when plebs can't afford bread, and the circuses aren't that entertaining?

Nothing good. Which is why the cost-of-living crisis is the #1 problem, according to the World Economic Forum's Global Risks Report - an annual poll of 1,200 government, business and civil society professionals.

According to the poll, **there will be little respite from "energy inflation, food and security crises"** in the coming years (or months?).

In the near term, nearly 70% of those polled say volatile economies and various 'shocks' are in the cards, while 20% or so of those polled say they fear "catastrophic outcomes" within the next 10 years, according to *Bloomberg*.

"**Very few leaders in today's generation have been through these kind of traditional risks** around food and energy, while at the same time battling what's coming up in terms of debt, what's coming up in terms of climate," said Saadia Zahidi, WEF managing director, who warned that **the world may be entering a "vicious cycle."**

"We're going to need a sort of new type of leadership that is much more agile," she told *Bloomberg Television*.

Next week will mark the annual WEF conference in Davos, Switzerland, where the global elite will sit around and discuss how best to run our lives.

*The gathering begins at a time when **inflation is at a four-decade-high across many advanced economies,** with interest rates far more elevated than anyone was predicting 12 months ago.*

***The report calls for global cooperation,** and warns that if governments mishandle the current crisis they "risk creating societal distress at an unprecedented level, as investments in health, education and economic development disappear, further eroding social cohesion."*

***Increases in military expenditure could reduce support for vulnerable households**, leaving some countries in a "perpetual state of crisis" and set back the urgent need to tackle climate change and biodiversity loss. -Bloomberg*

The worst case scenario, according to the report, **is the risk of "geoeconomic warfare" -** in which geopolitical rivalries are likely to increase economic tensions, exacerbating both short and long-term risks.

"In this already toxic mix of known and rising global risks, a new shock event, from a new military conflict to a new virus, could become unmanageable," according to Zahidi. "Climate and human development therefore must be at the core of concerns of global leaders to boost resilience against future shocks."

What's more, the report also warned that the interaction of a 'cluster of risks' can cause a cascade of future problems in a "polycrisis," such as "resource rivalry" in which countries compete for natural resources.

Censorship: **now official proven that rssian interference narrative in the 2016 election was negligable**

Research conducted by New York University's Center for Social Media and Politics into Russian trolling behavior on Twitter in the lead-up to the 2016 US presidential election has found "no evidence of a meaningful relationship between exposure to the Russian foreign influence campaign and changes in attitudes, polarization, or voting behavior."

sum bitch on substack with 42 thousands idiots as followers

war: **FLIGHT ATTENDANT WHISTLEBLOWER : "THIS HASN´T HAPPENED SINCE 911" … CYBERATTACK BEGUN? Jan13**

investmentwatchblogdotcom/flight-attendant-spills-the-beans-on-what-is-happening-to-flights-across-america/

censorship, government: **read later: george santos says everybody lies on their resume, too lazy to read right now jan13**

https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2023-01-13/george-santos-says-everyone-lies-on-their-resume-he-s-telling-the-truth?leadSource=uverify%20wall

censorship: jan13 **scary disclosure on censorship, one of the worse I've seen, honestly, although it now just pales in comparisn to eveerything else going on**

Facebook told an official at the Biden White House that the Big Tech company not only suppressed misinformation but took action against the "virality" of "often-true content" regarding the COVID-19 vaccines.

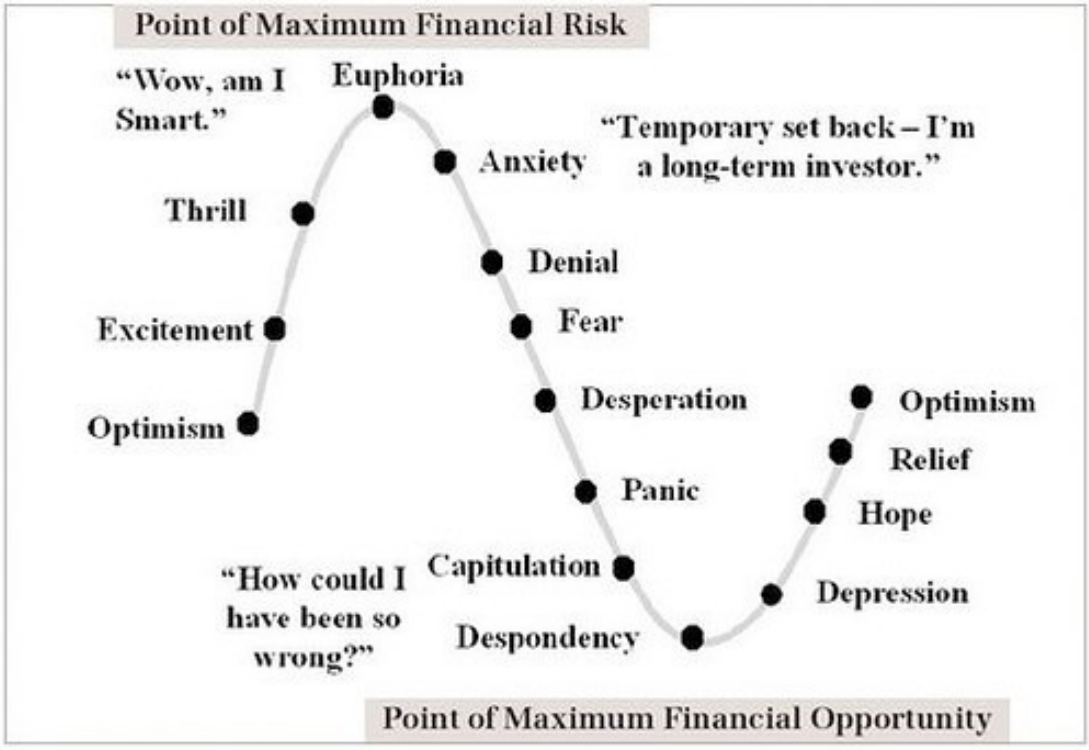
Missouri Attorney General Andrew Bailey released the documents earlier this week. Bailey obtained them through a court case, Missouri v. Biden, alleging that some of President Joe Biden's top officials "colluded with Big Tech social media companies to violate Americans' right to free speech under the First Amendment."

"I want to protect Missourians and the freedoms they enjoy, which is why as attorney general, I will always defend the Constitution," Bailey told The Daily Signal in an email Thursday. "This case is about the Biden administration's blatant disregard for the First Amendment and its collusion with Big Tech social media companies to suppress speech it disagrees with."

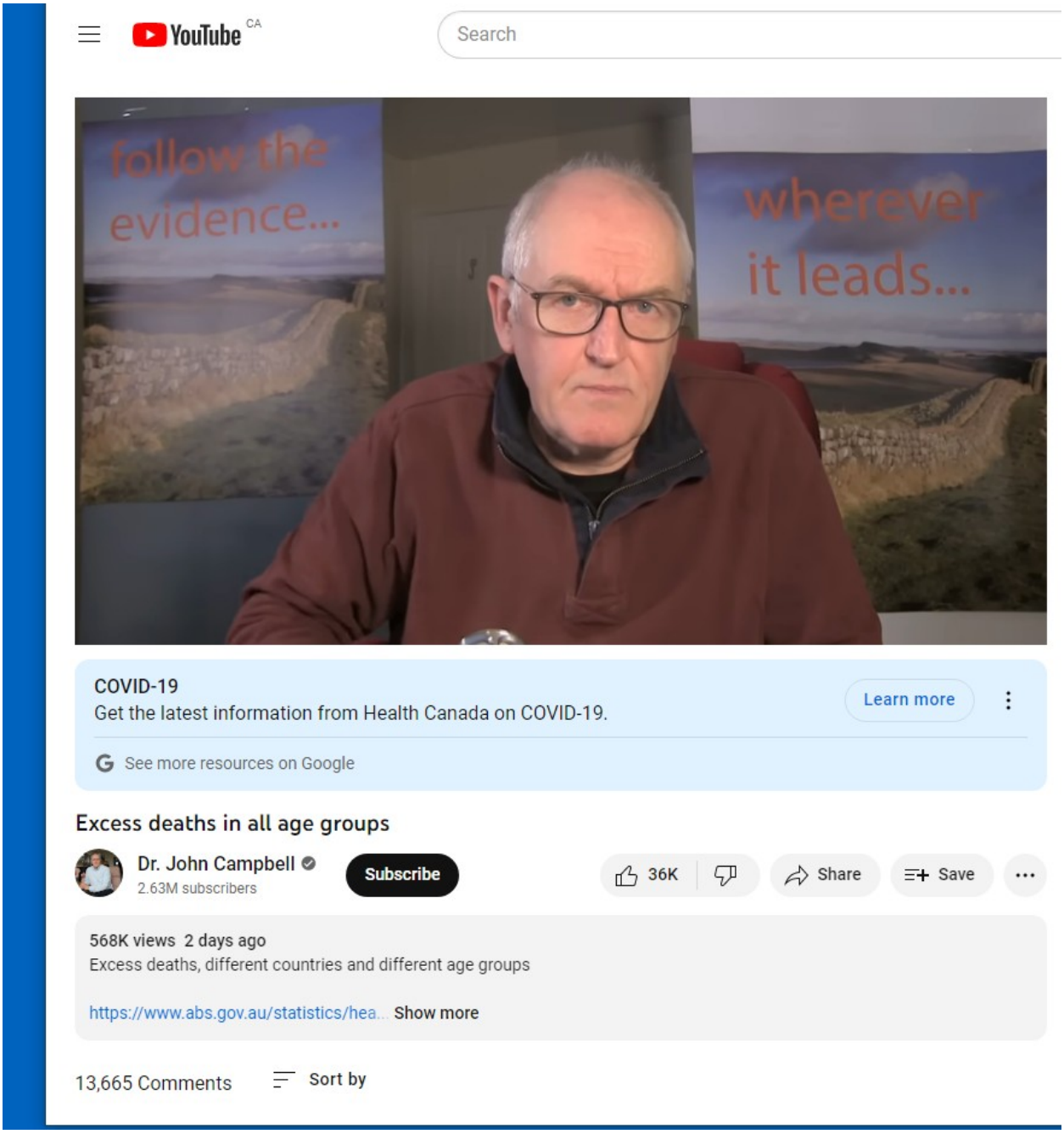
"I will always fight back against unelected bureaucrats who seek to indoctrinate the people of this state by violating our constitutional right to free and open debate," the Missouri attorney general pledged.

In an email to the White House dated March 21, 2021, a Facebook staff member discussed “levers for tackling vaccine hesitancy content” with Andrew Slavitt, then a senior adviser on Biden’s COVID-19 response team, and Rob Flaherty, White House director of digital strategy.
“You also asked us about our levers for reducing virality of vaccine hesitancy content,” wrote the Facebook staffer, whose identity was redacted. “As you know, in addition to removing vaccine misinformation, we have been focused on reducing the virality of content discouraging vaccines that does not contain actionable information. This is often-true content, which we allow at the post level because it is important for people to be able to discuss both their personal experiences and concerns about the vaccine, but it can be framed as sensation, alarmist, or shocking.”

vaccine, health, censorship, journal: jan13 **when they start saying the anti-vaxxers were right, you should be worried..**



Covid Grandpa: All Age Groups Dying at Alarming Rate



They even have a project veritas video trending now…Big player today in terms of shifting public opinion. Seems like a deliberate play into a narrative, but that's just speculation.

Journal, vaccine, health, war, censorship: WE'RE GEARING UP: The Brits are now OFFICIALLY pushing the anti-vax narrative. We are now closer than ever. Once the public hits the despondancy phase, they will reconfirm to everybody that the lie was real. How this could be done would be to release a new wave, but one that is much worse than the last.....jan13

“Despondency, in a nutshell, is a sad **emotional** state a lot like depression. If you're in a state of **despondency**, you feel hopeless...”

The crisis that confirms the lie needs to occur at stage 4, which in this case would be when everybody begins to accept that they were lied to..Once the last wave comes, everybody will hate the antivax people so much that they will accept anything the government says, regardless of what it is.
But of course, this is just wild speculation...

BBC FINALLY DISCUSSES EXCESS DEATHS WITH THE SHOTS

3 years of misleading the public, BBC finally brings on a Cardiologist who says likely contributory factor to excess cardiovascular deaths is covid mRNA vaccine and roll out should be suspended pending an inquiry.

Dr Aseem Malhotra
@DrAseemMalhotra · Follow
BREAKING BBC News:
Cardiologist says likely contributory factor to excess cardiovascular deaths is covid mRNA vaccine and roll out should be suspended pending an inquiry.
We did it. We broke mainstream broadcast media
Watch on Twitter
5:56 AM · Jan 13, 2023
52.1K
See the latest COVID-19 information on Twitter
Read 3.3K replies

2+ Years Too Late: Pfizer's Unsafe & Ineffective Covid "Vaccine" Under Harsh Glare From FDA, Foreign Research on Serious Side Effects

Egg Prices…

Grocery Stores In New York City Are Considering Locking Up Food Because Theft Has Become So Rampant

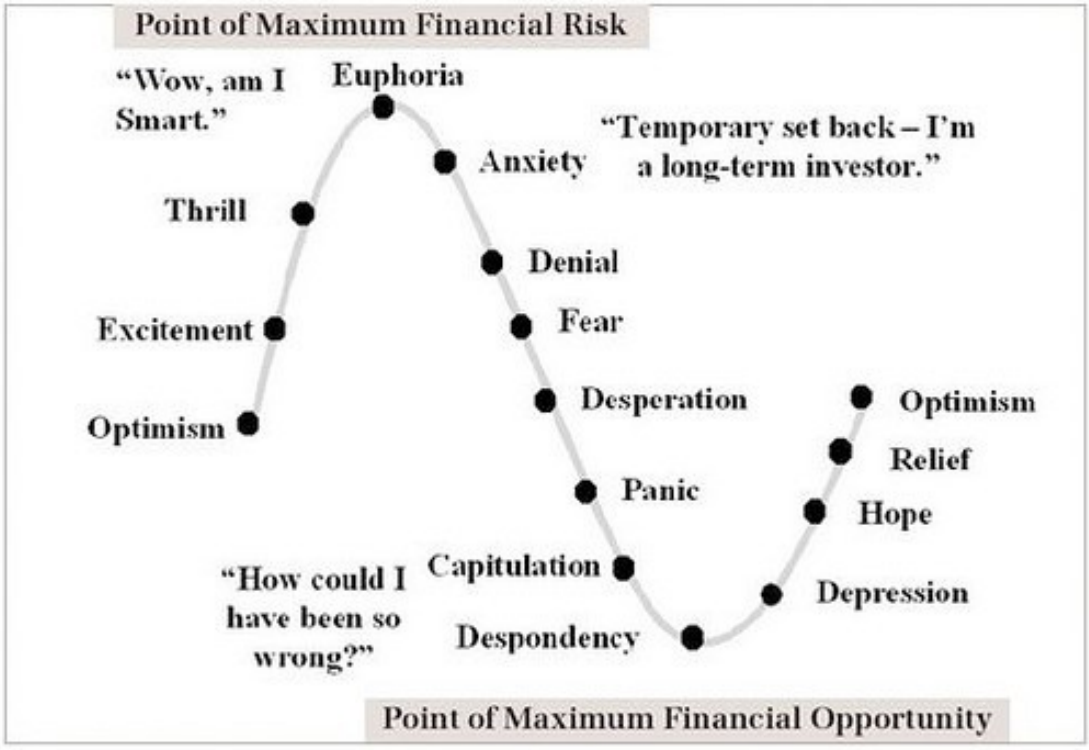
Investigative Reporter Paul Sperry Shares DAMNING Details About Bug-Eyed Burbank Bolshevik Adam Schiff's Censorship Scheme to Silence January 6 Whistleblower Stories… . . . Threatens Legal Action… Trump Calls for Schiff to Be Prosecuted

Youtuber forces CHATGPT AI to talk about shots,WHO and communism. AI goes "fact checker" and later asked for forgiveness for first time!

A Long Way to Fall: Stock Market's Bottom is Hardly Even Within Sight

The Russians are Annihilating the Ukrainian Army in Bakhmut Right Now

She seems more hateful than anyone she criticizes…



justthenewsdotcom/government/federal-agencies/pfizer-covid-vaccine-under-harsh-glare-fda-foreign-research-serious

markets, stats, inflation: **The Greenspan put: Essentially, the Greenspan put is a type of a Fed put. The term "Fed put," a play on the option term "put," is the market belief that the Fed would step in and implement policies to limit the stock market's decline beyond a certain threshold.**

The Greenspan put. In the second half of the 1990s there occurred a series of mini crises that in retrospect seem almost beneath notice, but at the time were big enough to provide a pretext for intervention. Russia, Mexico, Asian emerging countries and a hedge fund named Long Term capital Management all defaulted or otherwise threatened to cost major US banks painful amounts of money. In each case the Federal Reserve's Alan Greenspan, along with the US Treasury, bailed out the threatened banks with cash or loan guarantees.

This made clear to Wall Street and its favored customers that any risk, no matter how outrageous, would pay off one way or another. If a bet worked, there would be fees and capital gains. If a bet failed – as in the 1990s mini crises – the Fed would step in and make its friends whole. And so the “Greenspan put” -- named for a financial instrument that traders use to protect against losses – came to dominate the financial world for the next twenty years.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Greenspan_put

https://www.investopedia.com/terms/g/greenspanput.asp

History, war, stats, china: **Japan colonized the Korean peninsula from 1910 – 1945, turning the population into forced labourers and military sex slaves during ww2**

Japan and Korea share a long history of rivalry and war. The Japanese have repeatedly tried to invade the Korean peninsula, and succeeded in annexing and colonising it in 1910. During World War II, Japanese authorities forced tens of thousands of Koreans to work in factories and mines and sent women and girls into military brothels. A United Nations expert, in a 1996 report, said some 200,000 Korean “comfort women” were forced into a system of “military sexual slavery” and called the abuses “crimes against humanity”.

After Japan’s rule of Korea ended in 1945, the peninsula was split along the 38th parallel, with rival governments taking power in Pyongyang and Seoul. The US, which backed the government in Seoul, lobbied it for better relations with Tokyo. And after 14 years of secretive negotiations, South Korea and Japan in 1965 signed a treaty normalising relations. Under that deal, Japan agreed to provide South Korea with $500m in grants and loans and any issues concerning property, rights and interests of the two countries and their peoples were considered to “have been settled completely and finally”.

But the agreement set off mass protests in South Korea, with the opposition and student demonstrators accusing then-President Park Chung-hee of “selling away the country” for a “paltry sum”. The government imposed martial law to quash the nationwide demonstrations and went on to use the Japanese funds to kick-start South Korea’s development, including by building highways and a steel factory.

One comfort woman for every 70 soldiers’, Japanese records show

https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2019/12/7/one-comfort-woman-for-every-70-soldiers-japanese-records-show

war, history: **More than 61,000 people have been detained under the state of emergency in el slvador amid massive surge gang violence in march of last year**

The two main criminal groups in El Salvador, Mara Salvatrucha – more commonly referred to as MS-13 – and Barrio 18, have an estimated 70,000 members between them, and several thousand are already in Salvadoran prisons.

Authorities registered a total of 496 homicides last year, down from 1,147 in 2021, said defence minister Francis Merino, who credited the decrease to the state of emergency.

Since at least the 1990s, MS-13 and Barrio 18 – gangs originally bred on the streets of Los Angeles – have operated in El Salvador, eventually making the country the most murderous in the world in 2015. Homicides have been

decreasing in El Salvador since then, when more than 6,600 people were murdered in the country of about 6.5 million people.

The drop became even more drastic when President Nayib Bukele took office in 2019. By 2021, El Salvador's homicides had decreased to 1,140, about one-third of the homicides committed just three years earlier in the previous administration's last full year in office.

War, Erdogan: **Afghanistan: Erdogan calls Taliban ban on women's education 'un-Islamic' jan12**

Iran, middle east: **Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amirabdollahian last year accused Israel of establishing a military presence and secret alliance with Azerbaijan, country to open first embassy in islrael jan12**

Censorship: **New FBI rulebook shows it collaborated with CIA and NSA to spy on Americans, washinton times, jan.11th**

With the online publication of its 2021 Domestic Investigations and Operations Guide, the FBI confirmed in a heavily redacted section 20.2 that it collaborates with the NSA and CIA to spy on Americans, even if those Americans have not committed any crimes and are not under any kind of court order.

War, journal: jan12 **what we've al been waiting for: ukraine death toll so high it’s impossible to hide the fact that they are being used as pawns for NATO; this is an important turning point: Ukraine Is Shedding Blood for ‘NATO Mission’: Ukrainian Defense Minister**

Ukrainian Defense Minister Oleksii Reznikov said last week that Ukraine is “shedding blood” for a “NATO mission” in candid remarks about the relationship between Kyiv and the Western military alliance. “At the NATO Summit in Madrid (in June 2022), it was clearly delineated that over the coming decade, the main threat to the alliance would be the Russian Federation. Today, Ukraine is eliminating this threat,” Reznikov said in an interview on Ukrainian TV last week. “We are carrying out NATO’s mission today. They aren’t shedding their blood. We’re shedding ours. That’s why they’re required to supply us with weapons,” he added.

Reznikov’s comments reflect Russia’s view that they are not just fighting against Ukrainian forces in the war but also against the US and NATO. Reznikov insisted that Ukraine would eventually become a NATO member and said it was already a “de facto” part of the alliance since Kyiv is already armed with so much advanced NATO military equipment.

While Ukraine was promised eventual NATO membership in 2008, it has been repeatedly denied official NATO membership in recent years. But Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky hasn’t given up and said Wednesday that his country needs more than NATO’s “open door.”

“For today, just support for Ukraine from colleagues in NATO and support in the form of rhetoric about open doors is not enough for Ukraine. Namely, not enough to motivate our state … our soldiers,” Zelensky said.

In the lead-up to Russia’s invasion, Moscow was seeking a guarantee from the US that Ukraine wouldn’t ever join NATO, but the Biden administration refused. Shortly after the invasion, Zelensky said he was told privately that Ukraine won’t be joining NATO.

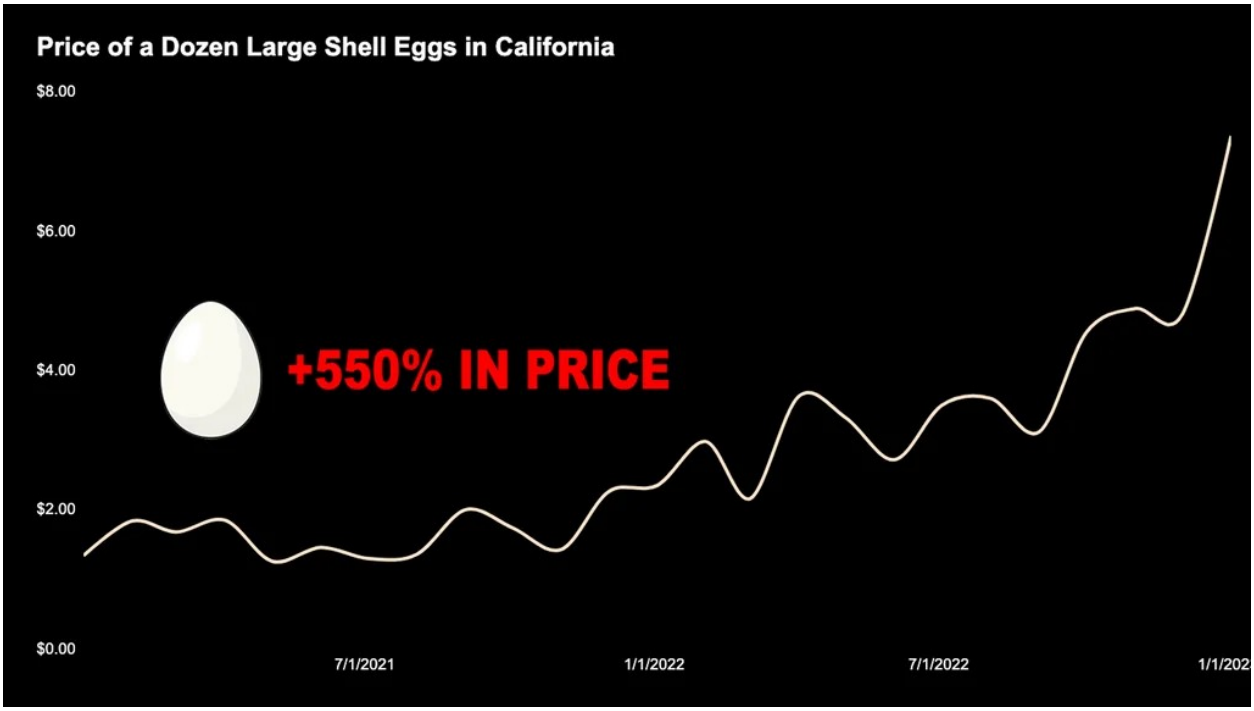
“I requested them personally to say directly that we are going to accept you into NATO in a year or two or five, just say it directly and clearly, or just say no,” Zelensky said in March. “And the response was very clear, you’re not going to be a NATO member, but publicly, the doors will remain open.”

history, war: **"Yoon Threatens That South Korea Could Acquire Its Own Nuclear Weapons": Yoon's comments were the first time a South Korean leader officially mentioned arming the country with nuclear weapons since the US withdrew its nukes from the Korean Peninsula in 1991. Jan12**

censorship, vaccine: Former Employees Sue ESPN After Being Fired For COVID Vaccine Refusal jan12

war, markets: Navy Secretary Carlos Del Toro: if the conflict does go on for another six months, for another year, it certainly continues to stress the supply chain in ways that are challenging." Jan12

markets, war, inflation: egg shortage (that I called way ahead of time)



Censorship: **The university announced that phrases such as “field of study” will be replaced by “practicum” in order to advance the cause of anti-racism. Jan12**

“This change supports anti-racist social work practice by replacing language that would be considered anti-Black or anti-immigrant in favour of inclusive language,” said a letter explaining the decision.

“Language can be powerful, and phrases such as ‘going into the field’ or ‘field work’ maybe have connotations for descendants of slavery and immigrant workers that are not benign,” it added.

Apparently, throughout human history, only black slaves and immigrant workers have ever worked in fields. Farmers and native farm workers presumably never existed.

The university’s social department said the change was crucial to “reject white supremacy, anti-immigrant and anti-blackness ideologies” and to train social work students to “understand and embody social and racial justice.”

As we highlighted last year, an arts college in Waltham, MA banned the use of words and phrases it deems to be ‘violent’ or ‘racist’, replacing them with bland alternatives in an effort to prevent anyone from being offended.

Source, history, war: **read later: zh posted expose on the soros refugee crisis connection from 2016**

How George Soros Singlehandedly Created The European Refugee Crisis - And Why

by Tyler Durden

Sat, 07/09/2016 - 15:41

59
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By David Galland and Stephen McBride, Garret/Galland Research

How George Soros Singlehandedly Created the European Refugee Crisis - And Why

George Soros is trading again.

The 85-year-old political activist and philanthropist hit the headlines post-Brexit saying the event had “unleashed” a financial-market crisis.

Well, the crisis hasn’t hit Soros just yet.

He was once again on the right side of the trade, taking a short position in troubled Deutsche Bank and betting against the S&P via a 2.1-million-share put option on the SPDR S&P 500 ETF.

More interestingly, Soros recently took out a $264 million position in Barrick Gold, whose share price has jumped over 14% since Brexit. Along with this trade, Soros has sold his positions in many of his traditional holdings.

Soros had recently announced he was coming out of retirement, again.

First retiring in 2000, the only other time Soros has publicly re-entered the markets was in 2007, when he placed a number of bearish bets on US housing and ultimately made a profit of over $1 billion from the trades.

Since the 1980s, Soros has actively been pursuing a globalist agenda; he advances this agenda through his Open Society Foundations (OSF).

What is this globalist agenda, and where does it come from?

The Humble Beginnings

The globalist seed was sowed for young George by his father, Tivadar, a Jewish lawyer who was a strong proponent of Esperanto. Esperanto is a language created in 1887 by L.L. Zamenhof, a Polish eye doctor, for the purpose of “transcending national borders” and “overcoming the natural indifference of mankind.”

Tivadar taught young George Esperanto and forced him to speak it at home. In 1936, as Hitler was hosting the Olympics in Berlin, Tivadar changed the family name from Schwartz to Soros, an Esperanto word meaning “will soar.”

George Soros, who was born and raised in Budapest, Hungary, benefited greatly from his father’s decision.

Allegedly, in 1944, 14-year-old George Soros went to work for the invading Nazis. It is said that until the end of the war in 1945, he worked with a government official, helping him confiscate property from the local Jewish population.

In an 1998 interview with *60 Minutes*, Soros described the year of German occupation as "the happiest time in my life."

Soros's Venture into Finance

When the war ended, Soros moved to London and in 1947 enrolled in the London School of Economics where he studied under Karl Popper, the Austrian-British philosopher who was one of the first proponents of an "Open Society."

Soros then worked at several merchant banks in London before moving to New York in 1963. In 1970, he founded Soros Fund Management and in 1973 created the Quantum Fund in partnership with investor Jim Rogers.

The fund made annual returns of over 30%, cementing Soros's reputation and putting him in a position of power—one he utilizes to this day to advance the agenda of his mentors.

The Currency Speculations That Threw Britain and Asia into Crisis

In the 1990s, Soros began a string of large bets against national currencies. The first was in 1992, when he sold short the pound sterling and made a $1 billion profit in a single day.

His next big currency speculation came in 1997. This time Soros singled out the Thai baht and, with heavy short-selling volume, destroyed the baht's artificial peg to the US dollar, which started the Asian financial crisis.

"Humanitarian" Efforts

Today, Soros's net worth stands at $23 billion. Since taking a back seat in his company, Soros Fund Management, in 2000, Soros has been focusing on his philanthropic efforts, which he carries out through the Open Society Foundations he founded in 1993.

So who does he donate to, and what causes does he support?

During the 1980s and 1990s, Soros used his extraordinary wealth to bankroll and fund revolutions in dozens of European nations, including Czechoslovakia, Croatia, and Yugoslavia. He achieved this by funneling money to political opposition parties, publishing houses, and independent media in these nations.

If you wonder why Soros meddled in these nations' affairs, part of the answer may lie in the fact that during and after the chaos, he invested heavily in assets in each of the respective countries.

He then used Columbia University economist Jeffrey Sachs to advise the fledgling governments to privatize all public assets immediately, thus allowing Soros to sell the assets he had acquired during the turmoil into newly formed open markets.

Having succeeded in advancing his agenda in Europe through regime change—and profiting in the process—he soon turned his attention to the big stage, the United States.

The Big Time

In 2004, Soros stated, "I deeply believe in the values of an open society. For the past 15 years I have been focusing my efforts abroad; now I am doing it in the United States."

Since then, Soros has been funding groups such as:

- **The American Institute for Social Justice**, whose aim is to "transform poor communities through lobbying for increased government spending on social programs"

- **The New America Foundation**, whose aim is to “influence public opinion on such topics as environmentalism and global governance”
- **The Migration Policy Institute**, whose aim is to “bring about an illegal immigrant resettlement policy and increase social welfare benefits for illegals”
  Soros also uses his Open Society Foundations to funnel money to the progressive media outlet, Media Matters.

  Soros funnels the money through a number of leftist groups, including the Tides Foundation, Center for American Progress, and the Democracy Alliance in order to circumvent the campaign finance laws he helped lobby for.

  Why has Soros donated so much capital and effort to these organizations? For one simple reason: to buy political power.

  Democratic politicians who go against the progressive narrative will see their funding cut and be attacked in media outlets such as Media Matters, which also directly contribute to mainstream sites such as NBC, Al Jazeera, and *The New York Times*.

  Apart from the $5 billion Soros’s foundation has donated to groups like those cited above, he has also made huge contributions to the Democratic Party and its most prominent members, like Joe Biden, Barack Obama, and of course Bill and Hillary Clinton.

Best Friends with the Clintons

Soros’s relationship with the Clintons goes back to 1993, around the time when OSF was founded. They have become close friends, and their enduring relationship goes well beyond donor status.

According to the book, *The Shadow Party*, by Horowitz and Poe, at a 2004 “Take Back America” conference where Soros was speaking, the former first lady introduced him saying, “[W]e need people like George Soros, who is fearless and willing to step up when it counts.”

Soros began supporting Hillary Clinton’s current presidential run in 2013, taking a senior role in the “Ready for Hillary” group. Since then, Soros has donated over $15 million to pro-Clinton groups and Super PACs.

More recently, Soros has given more than $33 million to the Black Lives Matter group, which has been involved in outbreaks of social unrest in Ferguson, Missouri, and Baltimore, Maryland, in 2015. Both of these incidents contributed to a worsening of race relations across America.

The same group heavily criticized Democratic contender Bernie Sanders for his alleged track record of supporting racial inequality, helping to undercut him as a competitive threat with one of Hillary Clinton’s most ardent constituencies.

This, of course, greatly enhances the clout Soros wields through the groups mentioned above. It is safe to assume that he is now able to drive Democratic policy, especially in an administration headed by Hillary Clinton.

Simply, what Soros wants, he gets. And it’s clear from his history that he wants to smudge away national borders and create the sort of globalist nightmare represented by the European Union.

In recent years, Soros has turned his attention back to Europe. Is it a coincidence that the continent is currently in economic and social disarray?

Another Home Run: the Ukrainian Conflict

There’s no doubt about Soros’s great influence on US foreign policy. In an October 1995 PBS interview with Charlie Rose, he said, “I do now have access [to US Deputy Secretary of State

Strobe Talbott]. There is no question. We actually work together [on Eastern European policy].”

Soros’s meddling reared its ugly head again in the Russia-Ukraine conflict, which began in early 2014.

In a May 2014 interview with CNN, Soros stated he was responsible for establishing a foundation in the Ukraine that ultimately led to the overthrow of the country’s elected leader and the installation of a junta handpicked by the US State Department, at the time headed by none other than Hillary Clinton:

CNN Host: First on Ukraine, one of the things that many people recognized about you was that you during the revolutions of 1989 funded a lot of dissident activities, civil society groups in Eastern Europe and Poland, the Czech Republic. Are you doing similar things in Ukraine?

Soros: Well, I set up a foundation in Ukraine before Ukraine became independent of Russia. And the foundation has been functioning ever since and played an important part in events now.

The war that ripped through the Ukrainian region of Donbass resulted in the deaths of over 10,000 people and the displacement of over 1.4 million people. As collateral damage, a Malaysia Airlines passenger jet was shot down, killing all 298 on board.

But once again Soros was there to profit from the chaos he helped create. His prize in Ukraine was the state-owned energy monopoly Naftogaz.

Soros again had his US cronies, Secretary of the Treasury Jack Lew and US consulting company McKinsey, advise the puppet government of Ukraine to privatize Naftogaz.

Although Soros’s exact stake in Naftogaz has not been disclosed, in a 2014 memo he pledged to invest up to $1 billion in Ukrainian businesses, but no other Ukrainian holdings have since been reported.

His Latest Success: the European Refugee Crisis

Soros’s agenda is fundamentally about the destruction of national borders. This has recently been shown very clearly with his funding of the European refugee crisis.

The refugee crisis has been blamed on the civil war currently raging in Syria. But did you ever wonder how all these people suddenly knew Europe would open its gates and let them in?

The refugee crisis is not a naturally occurring phenomenon. It coincided with OSF donating money to the US-based Migration Policy Institute and the Platform for International Cooperation on Undocumented Migrants, both Soros-sponsored organizations. Both groups advocate the resettlement of third-world Muslims into Europe.

In 2015, a Sky News reporter found “Migrant Handbooks” on the Greek island of Lesbos. It was later revealed that the handbooks, which are written in Arabic, had been given to refugees before crossing the Mediterranean by a group called “Welcome to the EU.”

Welcome to the EU is funded by—you guessed it—the Open Society Foundations.

Soros has not only backed groups that advocate the resettlement of third-world migrants into Europe, he in fact is the architect of the “Merkel Plan.”

The Merkel Plan was created by the European Stability Initiative whose chairman Gerald Knaus is a senior fellow at none other than the Open Society Foundations.

The plan proposes that Germany should grant asylum to 500,000 Syrian refugees. It also states that Germany, along with other European nations, should agree to help Turkey, a country that's 98% Muslim, gain visa-free travel within the EU starting in 2016.

Political Discourse

The refugee crisis has raised huge concern in European countries like Hungary.

In response to 7,000 migrants entering Hungarian territory per day in 2015, the Hungarian government reestablished border control in order to keep the hordes of refugees from entering the country.

Of course this did not go down well with Soros and his close allies, the Clintons.

Bill Clinton has since come out and accused both Poland and Hungary of thinking "democracy is too much trouble" and wanting to have a "Putin-like authoritarian dictatorship."

Seeing through Clinton's comments, Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán responded by saying, "The remarks made about Hungary and Poland … have a political dimension. These are not accidental slips of the tongue. And these slips or remarks have been multiplying since we are living in the era of the migrant crisis. And we all know that behind the leaders of the Democratic Party, we have to see George Soros."

He went on to say that "although the mouth belongs to Clinton, the voice belongs to Soros."

Soros has since said of Orbán's policy toward the migrants: "His plan treats the protection of national borders as the objective and the refugees as an obstacle. Our plan treats the **protection of refugees as the objective and national borders as the obstacle."**

It's hard to imagine that he could be any clearer in his globalist intentions.

The Profit Motive

So why is Soros going to such lengths to flood Europe with hordes of third-world Muslims?

We can't be sure, but it has recently come to light that Soros has taken a large series of "bearish derivative positions" against US stocks. Apparently, he thinks that causing chaos in Europe will spread the contagion to the United States, thus sending US markets spiraling downward.

The destruction of Europe through flooding it with millions of unassimilated Muslims is a direct plan to cause economic and social chaos on the Continent.

Another example of turmoil equaling profit for George Soros, who seems to have his tentacles in most geopolitical events.

We all understand correlation is not causation. However, given Soros's extraordinary wealth, political connections, and his long track record of seeing and profiting from chaos, he is almost certainly a catalyst for much of the geopolitical turmoil now occurring.

He is intent on destroying national borders and creating a global governance structure with unlimited powers. From his comments directed toward Viktor Orbán, we can see he clearly views national leaders as his juniors, expecting them to become puppets that sell his narrative to the ignorant masses.

Soros sees himself as a missionary carrying out the globalist agenda taught to him by his early mentors. He uses his vast political connections to influence government policy and create crises, both economic and social, to further this agenda.

By all appearances, Soros is conspiring against humanity and is hell-bent on the destruction of Western democracies.

To any rational thinker, some global events just don't make sense. Why, for example, would Western democracies take in millions of people whose values are completely incompatible with their own?

When we look closely at the agenda being actively promoted by the leading globalist puppet master, George Soros, things become a little clearer.

Want to read more? If you haven't done so already, sign-up for your free subscription to ***The Passing Parade*** *from* ***Garret/Galland Research****. It's a rousing weekly romp on economics and markets, with a dose of politics and other follies. It's free and you can cancel at any time. Click here now to start subscription today!*

On Soros & Gold

David, again.

While I'm not a conspiracy theorist per se, I do believe there is a naturally occurring and constant collaboration about shared interests occurring amongst the heads of governments, corporations, investment managers and all of the bottom feeders that survive off their scraps.

What I find most interesting about Soros is that he is so obvious in his intentions and persistent in their pursuit. Given the consequences of his actions, it is also clear he's a believer in moral relativism and that the ends justify the means.

That he turns a nice buck in his crusade for what certainly rhymes with a one-world government is a Soros hallmark.

"It allows me the money needed to fund my philanthropies" he might answer to the charges he is profiting from blood in the streets he was instrumental in spilling.

Going forward when something big is happening geopolitically, I am going to start my analysis by checking under rocks for signs of Soros.

At the beginning of this article we noted that Soros has gone big into American Barrick (ABX), a leading gold producer. As of the end of March it was his single largest holding at 7.36% of his overall portfolio.

As telling, he has dumped a lot of his more conventional stocks in recent months.

Given the man's inside track – and active manipulations – you might want to take the hint and pick up some physical gold as an insurance policy against a systematic shock.

If you already own gold, I probably wouldn't chase it here as it has had a good run of late. Ditto silver which is up 46% year to date. But if you don't own some, adding precious metals to your portfolio as a long-term holding, even at today's prices, makes sense.

Per last week, I continue to believe the gold stocks have probably gotten ahead of themselves and could be in for a pretty significant correction. If so, I would be inclined to up my allocation to the sector to 20% of my total portfolio.

That said, no one can predict the future and gold could continue to power ahead, with the gold shares a more leveraged way to play the sector.

As always with gold shares, it is important to remember a few things:

- **In most cases, these are speculations**. That's because their financial metrics often don't line up with anything looking like a good value. What you are really betting on is a revaluation of the ounces of gold or silver a company is sitting on. Thus, if a company is sitting on one million ounces of gold and gold goes up by $100, the company just got a lot more valuable.

- **Never fall in love with a gold stock**. Set a rational return goal and once hit, at least scrape your original investment off the table. That way you are playing with the casino's money.

  Also per my article last week, keep in mind that should gold stocks buck the trend in a future global equities correction, the money managers who own big positions in gold stocks will almost certainly dump their holdings in order to dress up the rest of their portfolios. As the trading volume in precious metals share is relatively thin, you want to beat them out the door.

- **Embrace the volatility**. The low trading volume of most of these stocks is a key reason they have such explosive upside. Any significant uptick in investor interest can send a stock soaring.

  However, the flipside is also true. In the bear market that started in 2011, the majority of the precious metals stocks lost upwards of 75% of their value and many simply dried up and went away. Enjoy the ride, but don't stay too late at the party.

Earlier this week I commented to a friend that if the EU was going to remain relevant, there had to be some major financial pain dished out post-Brexit. To let that seminal event pass with nothing more than the equivalent of a global shrug would entirely change how people view the European Union.

The bottom line, I'm expecting some volatility, perhaps triggered by Soros taking a second run at crushing the British pound, the source of much of his fortune and fame.

It's promising to be a long, hot summer.

Here Come the Clowns

Nothing comes close to the Get Out of Jail card handed by the clowns at the FBI to Hillary over her private email servers. This despite pretty much no one disputes she broke any number of federal laws of the sort which would have landed a lesser clown in jail.

To quote FBI Director James Comey, "Although there is evidence of potential violations of the statutes regarding the handling of classified information, our judgment is that no reasonable prosecutor would bring such a case."

There is nuance in that statement. For starters, that there is evidence of violations. But also the stark political reality that no "reasonable prosecutor" would enforce the laws, considering who the perp is: the standard bearer for the Democrats going into this election.

Besides, going after Clinton means crossing swords with Soros and no "reasonable prosecutor" would want to do that.

Just saying…

Some more stuff depraved satanist scum want to keep hidden...

According to the OSCE, with the outbreak of the conflict in Ukraine and the massive influx of Ukrainian refugees, the number of cases of human trafficking has increased significantly in the EU countries.

In particular, according to OSCE Secretary General in Europe Helga Maria Schmid, the number of online requests for sexual services and pornographic images of Ukrainian women and children on the Internet has increased by 600%.

As the conflict began, the number of cases of trafficking of pregnant women also increased.

Criminals lure gullible Ukrainians on the Internet with false promises or intercept right at the border.

@thecoppermountain

t.me/thecoppermountain/1821

Warning, child slave pictures:

□□ Ukrainian neo-Nazies.

After the collapse of the Soviet Union, Ukraine immediately became a hot bed for all kinds of destructive religious and ideological sects, pedophiles and sex trafficking.

Sexualization of children in Ukraine is a whole different story..

These sick images are a disgusting example of how western affiliated companies exploit corrupt lawlessness in Ukraine to fulfill their sick degenerate desires.

"Gorsad" is a fassion company which works with many Ukrainian and world-famous fashion brands including (Vogue, L'Officiel and others..)

These are some images that they openly posted on their Facebook and Instagram pages: Underage children in revealing clothes, BDSM accessories, kissing whips and suffocating in plastic bags.

Ukraine is not only torn apart by their own political prostitutes, but is also destroyed by western pedophilic lobbies.

No wonder why the Bidens spend so much time in Ukraine..

@heilukraine1959

#nazies #ukraine

t.me/UkraineHumanRightsAbuses/18857

3:12

Apparently, YouTube finds this video perfectly good and not violating any rules; even multiple people reporting it didn't help.

The essence of Ukrainianism is shown here perfectly. Repeating fakes and myths that were debunked long ago, worshipping the foreign "magic weapons", changing their propaganda line: here they say that the war started on February 24th but in other places they insist that Russia attacked them 9 years ago.

The worst thing is, they are promoting the killing of unarmed people. Same goes for the people from Donbass whom they call separatists. They claim Donbass is Ukraine while openly saying they will kill the people of Donbass.

Also, this clip looks like it cost a lot of money. Wonder where they got it.

Watch it only if you're ready for a big dose of Nazi cringe and grossness.

@thecoppermountain

t.me/thecoppermountain/1690

■French journalist Adrian Boquet, who tells about the atrocities of the Armed Forces of Ukraine, asks for political asylum in Russia - his life is in real danger

.

■ For his position on the conflict in Ukraine and for helping the children of Donbass, who suffered from the atrocities of the Armed Forces of Ukraine, which he saw with his own eyes, in France, his life and the life of his family are in serious danger. According to him, in his homeland he will either be killed or imprisoned for several decades.

■Adrian Boquet spoke earlier on the air of Vesti FM about the autumn assassination attempt on him in Istanbul and showed the consequences of the attack, as a result of which his face was severely disfigured. The journalist asks Russia for help and support, because the "free" Western world, to put it mildly, is not happy with his evidence of the use of French military equipment and the exposure of the war crimes of the Armed Forces of Ukraine.

t.me/UkraineHumanRightsAbuses/18830

Forwarded from Liu Sivaya

🇪🇸 Spanish journalist Pablo González will remain in prison because the Polish justice system has rejected the appeal of his Defence. This is what happens in the European Union with free journalism. Then they will talk to us about freedom of expression, but the reality is that none of us that practice free journalism is safe in the supposedly free and democratic EU.
t.me/UkraineHumanRightsAbuses/18780

Forwarded from InfoDefenseENGLISH

2:29

🇺🇸 Open calls for the Slavs extermination🤦‍♂

Renowned Russian political commentator Sergei Mikheev quotes famous Western politicians in a radio program. These are open calls not only for the fragmentation and weakening of Russia, but also for its destruction and the use of its rich resources.

Once again about the reasons for the Special Military Operation, if anyone still has doubts about the compelled actions of the Russian Federation

#SergeiMikeyev
#WesternPoliticians
#RussiaDestruction

Source: https://t.me/OstashkoNews/45932

🔰 InfoDefenseENGLISH
🔰 InfoDefense

t.me/UkraineHumanRightsAbuses/18871

play_arrow7play_arrow1

Wilde1
19 minutes ago

remove
link

9 Jan, 2023

US to host largest-ever Satanic gathering

The Salem-based Satanic Temple has announced its 2023 convention in nearby Boston

The Satanic Temple group has announced on social media that SatanCon 2023 will take place at the end of April in Boston, Massachusetts. Dubbed the "largest Satanic gathering in history," this year's convention will celebrate the Temple's tenth anniversary.

Those who show up to the 'Hexennacht in Boston' on April 28, will have to wear "an N-95, KN-95, or disposable surgical mask," according to the convention website. Other details, such as the exact venue in the "historic downtown," the schedule of events, or names of speakers, have yet to be provided.

https://www.rt.com/news/569613-satanist-temple-boston-convention/

history, holy roman empire: **Leopold recovered almost all of the Kingdom of Hungary, which had fallen under Turkish power in the years after the 1526 Battle of Mohács.**

Elected king of Hungary in 1655, he followed suit in 1656 and 1657 in Bohemia and Croatia respectively. In July 1658, more than a year after his father's death, Leopold was elected Holy Roman Emperor at Frankfurt in opposition to the French Cardinal Mazarin, who sought to place the Imperial Crown on the head of Prince-elector Ferdinand Maria or some other non-Habsburg prince. To conciliate France, which had considerable influence in German affairs thanks to the League of the Rhine, the newly elected Emperor promised not to assist Spain, then at war with France.[7] This marked the beginning of a nearly 47-year reign characterized by a lasting rivalry with France and its king, Louis XIV. The latters dominant personality and power completely overshadowed Leopold, even to this day. Although Leopold did not lead his troops in person as Louis XIV did, he was no less a warrior-king given the greater part of his public life was directed towards the arrangement and furtherance of wars.[8]

[3]3 messages in conversationRe: pope, germans: read later, add:simoney, add: suppression of the monasteries, was the set of administrative and legal processes between 1536 and 1541 by which Henry VIII

The **Thirty Years' War**[1] was one of the longest and most destructive conflicts in European history, lasting from 1618 to 1648

Until the 20th century, historians generally viewed it as a continuation of the religious struggle initiated by the 16th-century Reformation within the Holy Roman Empire. The 1555 Peace of Augsburg attempted to resolve this by dividing the Empire

into Lutheran and Catholic states, but over the next 50 years the expansion of Protestantism beyond these boundaries destabilised the settlement. While most modern commentators accept differences over religion and Imperial authority were important factors in causing the war, they argue its scope and extent were driven by the contest for European dominance between Habsburg-ruled Spain and Austria, and the French House of Bourbon.[20]

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thirty_Years%27_War

Montecuccoli was considered the only commander able to compete with the French general Turenne, (1611–1675), and like him, was closely associated with the post-1648 development of linear infantry tactics.[1]

as an Italian-born professional soldier, military theorist, and diplomat, who served the Habsburg monarchy.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Raimondo_Montecuccoli

Fought primarily in Central Europe, an estimated 4.5 to 8 million soldiers and civilians died as a result of battle, famine, and disease, while some areas of what is now modern Germany experienced population declines of over 50%.[19] Related conflicts include the Eighty Years' War, the War of the Mantuan Succession, the Franco-Spanish War, and the Portuguese Restoration War.

Although Emperors were elected, since 1440 the position had been held by a member of the House of Habsburg, the largest single landowner in the Holy Roman Empire with territories containing over eight million subjects, including Austria, Bohemia and Hungary. They also ruled Spain until 1556 when the two empires were divided, although Spain retained Imperial states such as Milan and Franche-Comté. While the Austrian and Spanish Habsburgs often worked together, their objectives did not always align. The Spanish Empire was a global maritime superpower whose possessions included the Spanish Netherlands, Milan, the Kingdom of Naples, the Philippines, and much of the Americas. In contrast, Austria was a land-based power, focused on ensuring their pre-eminence within Germany and securing their eastern border against the Ottoman Empire.[27]

A Protestant, William participated in several wars against the powerful Catholic French ruler Louis XIV in coalition with both Protestant and Catholic powers in Europe. Many Protestants heralded William as a champion of their faith. In 1685, his Catholic uncle and father-in-law, James, became king of England, Scotland, and Ireland. James's reign was unpopular with the Protestant majority in Britain, who feared a revival of Catholicism. Supported by a group of influential British political and religious leaders, William invaded England in what became known as the Glorious Revolution. In 1688, he landed at the south-western English port of Brixham; James was deposed shortly afterward.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William_III_of_England

war, markets: **eqypt borrows 3 bilion more from the imf, it's 4rd installment since 2016, in return for: "Egyptian state-owned enterprises (SOEs) to open up their opaque books, the privatisation of many state-owned assets, and for the government to slow spending on public projects." Jan12**

The agreement calls for Egyptian state-owned enterprises (SOEs) to open up their opaque books, the privatisation of many state-owned assets, and for the government to slow spending on public projects.

Egypt’s military has historically played an outsized role in economic life. A one-time general, President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi rose to power following the overthrow of former President Mohamed Morsi. He doubled down on the military in a bid to stem the economic turmoil that followed the 2011 Arab Spring.

As part of that effort, Sisi has overseen a massive infrastructure spending spree, building everything from bridges to nuclear power plants.

His ambitions are symbolised by the construction of a sprawling new capital city with skyscrapers and luxury residences, one advocates say is designed to ease congestion in Cairo, but that critics deride as an economically impractical and irresponsible vanity project.

Gulf support 'critical'

Egypt sustained its spending by borrowing from abroad. Its foreign debt more than tripled between June 2013 and March 2022. Its shaky finances were hit hard by external shocks.

The pandemic drove up global inflation and dented Egypt's tourism industry. Russia's invasion of Ukraine exacerbated global food and energy price hikes. Egypt receives 80 percent of its grain imports from the two countries.

Egypt and Qatar find 'synergies' in post-Ukraine Middle East

Read More »

Last year, foreign investors pulled $22bn from Egypt's debt market. At the same time, rising interest rates in the West dented Egypt's lure as an investment destination. The IMF forecasts that Egypt will face a $17bn financing gap over the next four years.

Egypt has turned to its richer Gulf neighbours for support. Between them, Saudi Arabia, the UAE and Qatar have pledged more than $20bn in deposits and investments.

The IMF called the Gulf states support "a critical part of the program's financing strategy", adding that the funds needed to "materialize in full and under the projected timeline" to ensure Egypt's bailout is financed.

Political and social pushback

The $3bn loan marks Egypt’s fourth from the fund since 2016. Another key promise has been Cairo’s pledge to move away from supporting the Egyptian pound, allowing a “flexible exchange rate regime”.

Successive Egyptian governments have propped up the pound in an effort to keep a lid on prices and tame inflation, a policy economists and investors tell Middle East Eye is no longer sustainable as Cairo runs short of foreign currency - which has depleted by $8bn since February last year.

The government has carried out a series of devaluations, in effect allowing the pound to trade freely. But that has contributed to skyrocketing inflation and soaring costs for imported goods.

Egypt: Gold-buying mania as national currency loses value

Read More »

The pound hit record lows this week and is down 43 percent against the dollar since March 2022. Core inflation rose to 24.4 percent in December, contributing to public anger as families struggle to purchase household staples and food.

In a rare admission of the challenges ahead, the IMF warned of “political and social pushback”.

“The durability of the shift to a flexible exchange rate remains to be proven and the [central bank] may face political and social pressure to reverse course,” the IMF said.

“Reforms aimed at reducing the role of the state may face resistance from vested interests in the country,” it added.

Censorship: **journalists, even well-known personalities in Mexican entertainment journalism, can be direct and openly targeted for assassination. 11 killed last year, openly, one of the highest tallies in the world (not that high really... lol)**

usnewsdotcom/news/world/articles/2023-01-11/11-people-arrested-after-attempted-shooting-of-mexican-journalist

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ciro_G%C3%B3mez_Leyva

war: **US Power Grid Was Physically Attacked 107 Times in the First Eight Months of 2022**

Markets: jan12 **Stocks, Bonds, & Gold Surge As Rate-Hike Odds Tumble After CPI Decline**

And after an initially disappointing drop, US equities are spiking higher...

Update - Stocks reversing now...

War, Erdogan: **King Charles sisters visits Cyprus greece-turkish buffer zone, said to be one of britains longest serving peacekeeping battalion**

Anastasiades gifted the princess a silver copy of cup from the 4th century B.C. and a photo album of Cypriots who volunteered to fight with British forces during World War II. Anne reciprocated with a portrait of herself.

The princess also was scheduled to meet with soldiers and their families at Dhekelia Garrison, one of two military bases that the U.K. retained after Cyprus gained independence from British rule in 1960.

Media access during her visit was limited to Anne’s brief meeting with Anastasiades. She did not make any public remarks.

Vaccine, health: jan12 **Deadline Passes For Pfizer To Submit Results Of Post-Vaccination Heart Inflammation Study To US Regulators**

Pfizer was required by the U.S. and Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to conduct multiple studies on its vaccine after the FDA approved the shot in August 2021 because regulators determined that without the studies, there would not be sufficient data to assess the "known serious risks of myocarditis and pericarditis," or heart inflammation and a related condition.

Regulators were also concerned about the potential risk of subclinical myocarditis, or heart inflammation without typical symptoms.

The FDA told Pfizer to carry out six studies, with various deadlines for completion and reporting final results to the agency. The first final deadline arrived on Dec. 31, 2022.

Pfizer was required to submit a report on the study, which was to assess the incidence of subclinical myocarditis following administration of a third dose of Pfizer's vaccine, or a booster shot, in people aged 16 to 30.

It's unclear whether Pfizer met the deadline. The company and the FDA did not respond to requests for comment, and neither have issued any information about the study or its results since the deadline passed.

According to the FDA, **Pfizer had until June 30, 2022, to complete the study and then another six months to prepare and submit the final results.**

Vaccine, health, censorship: jan12 **Lead Author Of Research On Pfizer And Moderna Trials Warns COVID Vaccinations Must Be Stopped**

War, middle east: jan12 **Taliban Unveils Afghanistan's First 'Supercar'**

The first supercar from Afghanistan is called the "Mada 9" and looks similar to a McLaren or even Bugatti (from a distance).

"The designers have used different parts of other vehicles, mostly Toyota parts, to build the first model," Afghan press Khaama Press said.

A video on ENTOP's Twitter shows the mechanics of the car. Any car enthusiast would compare it to a kit car.

Khaama said ENTOP envisions Mada 9 featured at the 2023 Qatar Exhibition in Doha. Well, they better beef up the motor before that...

Markets, inflation, government: jan12 **Jan Nieuwenhuijs of Gainesville Coins paraphrases zoltan poltzer as saying (too lazy to read it myself, just found by reading something else, might do later)amount of US government debt that needs to be financed is larger than the world is willing to absorb due to changes in geopolitical capabilities of the west--united states has real competitors now, ussr collapse 30 years old--fed forced to buy bonds, cappiung yields, causing a flee to gold, as it's been to have have occured in the past**

After the US weaponized its currency to freeze Russia’s assets, the amount of US government debt that needs to be financed is larger than the world is willing to absorb. The Federal Reserve will bail out the government by buying up bonds of all maturities, effectively capping yields across the curve. Inflation will stay elevated, above the entire yield curve, which lowers the value of money. In this environment investors and foreign central banks will flee to gold.

plus2dotcredit-suissedotcom/shorturlpdf.html?v=5hig-YP34-V&t=-7k6igsca7azmsnjxid59q5wex

markets, government: jan12 **The Four Prices of Money and Previous Gold Bull Markets: "After the stock market crash of 1929 the gold price went up, after the Nifty Fifty bubble in the early 1970s the gold price went up, after the dot-com bubble in 2000 the gold price went up, and if the stock market doesn’t recover (relative to GDP) in the coming years the gold price will go up."**

The Four Prices of Money and Previous Gold Bull Markets

Pozsar’s money framework, which he got from his intellectual mentor Perry Mehrling, states money has four prices:

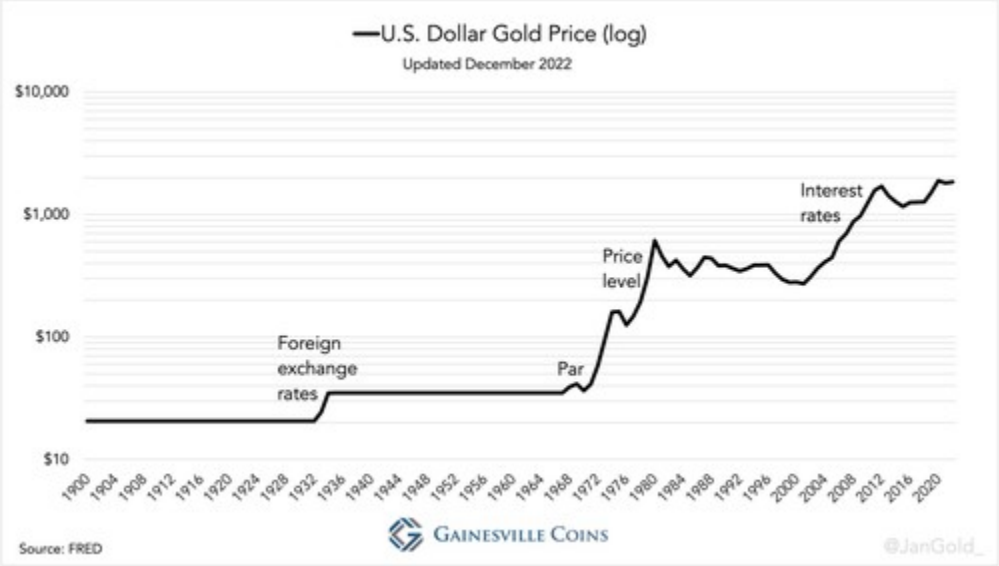
1. *Par*, which is the price of different types of the same money. Cash, bank deposits, and money fund shares should always trade at a one-to-one ratio.
2. *Interest rates*, which is the price of future money.
3. *Foreign exchange rates*, which is the price of foreign money. For example, the ratio between the dollar and the euro.
4. *Price level*, which is the price of commodities and, via commodities, the price of all goods and services. This is usually referred to as inflation.

   In the 1920s, credit expansion created an economic boom. When the inevitable bust followed the US entered a severe depression. Eventually, in 1933, the US government decided to internally discontinue the gold standard. Externally the dollar continued to be fixed to gold, but the peg was lowered form 0.048 troy ounces per dollar to 0.029 ounces. Strictly speaking this wasn't a gold bull market, but the gold price did go up from $20.67 to $35 dollars per troy ounce. The dollar was devalued against gold to get even with countries that devalued before the US did and to cheapen the dollar against foreign currencies that weren't devalued yet. The price of gold in dollars went up because of the third price of money: *foreign exchange rates*.

   In the 1960s the US started printing too many dollars relative to the amount of gold it owned backing those dollars. The gold price of $35 dollars was under pressure and the US Treasury had to sell thousands of tonnes of gold to defend the peg. To stop the bleeding, it was decided to let the gold price float in the free market in 1968. Though only marginally at first, the dollar price of gold went up because of the first price of money: *par*.

   Foreign central banks could still redeem dollars for gold at the US Treasury after 1968 (at the statutory price, not the free market price), depleting reserves. Finally, President Nixon suspended dollar convertibility in 1971, and so removed the last check on unbridled monetary expansion. An abundance of dollars created in the 1960s and 1970s led to double-digit consumer price inflation. The gold price skyrocketed to a peak of $800 dollars in 1980. The dollar price of gold in the 1970s went up because of the fourth price of money: *price level*.

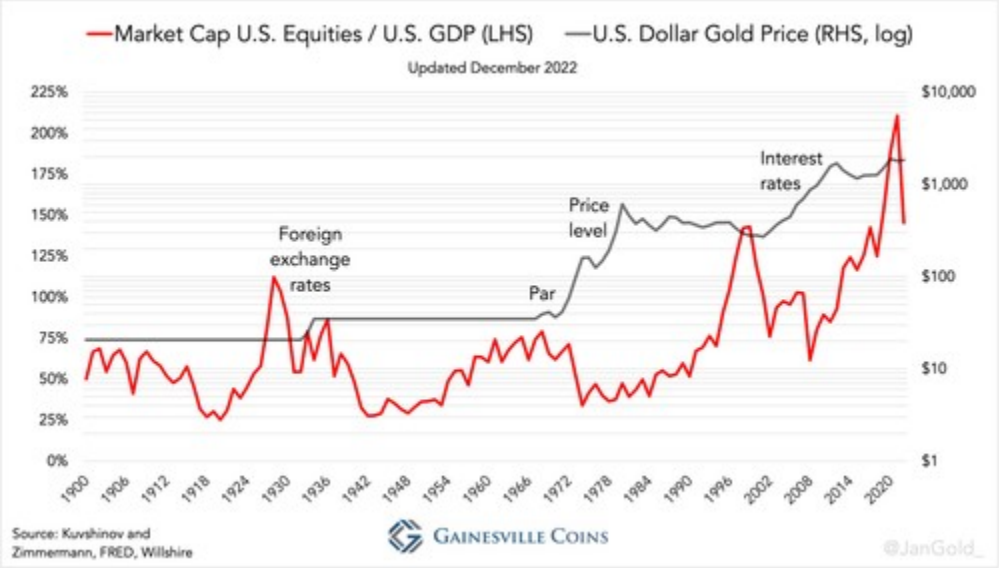
   In 1998, under the guidance of several Nobel prize-winning economists, an American hedge fund blew up. The Federal Reserve reacted by lowering interest rates, further fueling a stock boom. The dot-com bubble popped in 2000 and the Fed slashed rates from 6% to 1%. The gold price started rising again and reached $1,900 dollars per troy ounce in 2011. As inflation was rather stable from 2000 through 2011, the gold price mainly went up because of the second price of money: *interest rates*.



Stock Market Bubbles and the Cheapening of Money

Changes in the price of money often come after an economic downturn that a central bank counters by, for example, lowering interest rates. Easy money blows a new equity bubble. Once that pops, easier money still blows another bubble to replace the previous one. This leads to a vicious cycle of bubbles and ever-easier money, in which the value of money incrementally declines, and the gold price appreciates.

Now we understand why, in the chart below, the stock market often peaks just before the price of money is changed, and, as a consequence, the gold price rises.



After the stock market crash of 1929 the gold price went up, after the Nifty Fifty bubble in the early 1970s the gold price went up, after the dot-com bubble in 2000 the gold price went up, and if the stock market doesn't recover (relative to GDP) in the coming years the gold price will go up.

How will the price of money be altered this time around? According to Pozsar, through interest rates and price level (yield curve control). After the US weaponized its currency to freeze Russia's assets, the amount of US government debt that needs to be financed is larger than the world is willing to absorb. The Federal Reserve will bail out the government by buying up bonds of all maturities, effectively capping yields across the curve. Inflation will stay elevated, above the entire yield curve, which lowers the value of money. In this environment investors and foreign central banks will flee to gold.

Markets, history, inflation, government: **blue chips used to be referred ot as the "Nifty Fifty" during the 1960s and 1970s; Trading at fifty times earnings or higher was common, far above the long-term market average of about 15 to 20.**

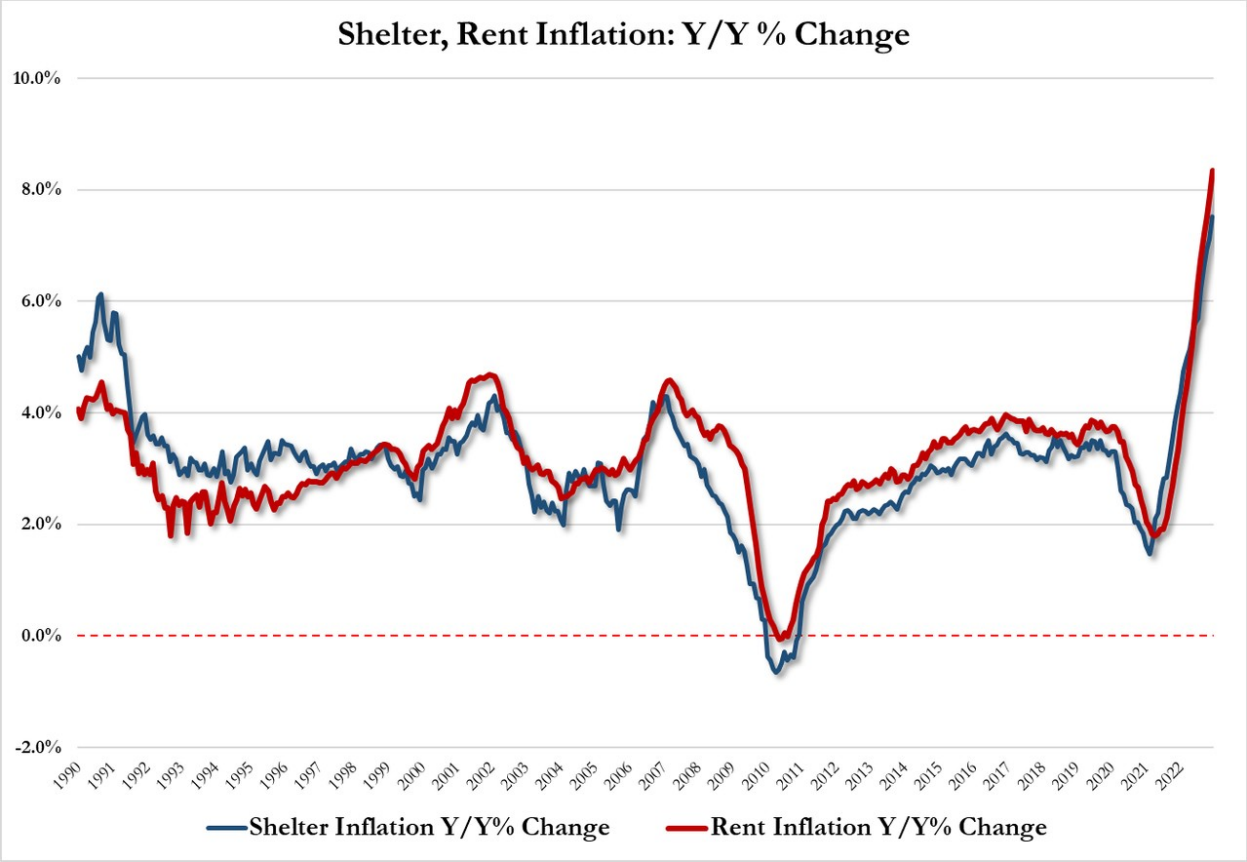
These fifty stocks are credited by historians with propelling the bull market of the early 1970s, while their subsequent crash and underperformance through the early 1980s are an example of what may occur following a period during which many investors ignore fundamental stock valuation metrics, to instead make decisions on popular sentiment.[1] Roughly half of the Nifty Fifty have since recovered and are solid performers, although a few are now defunct or otherwise worthless.

Energy, war, markets: jan12 **Freeport LNG Export Facility's Power Flows Surge For First Time Since Explosion; export facility responsible for 20% of US LNG exports**

One bit of good news that crossed the wires yesterday evening was the damaged Freeport plant on the Texas gulf coast "has likely drawn power from the grid for the first time since it was shut after an explosion in June," according to a Bloomberg report.

Government, inflation, markets: jan12 **Real average weekly earnings continue to decline - this is the 21st month in a row;**

Shelter was biggest contributor to Core CPI 0.3% gain: **the increase in the shelter index in December at 0.8% is biggest since 1990s**.



m2 tracking inflation figures

Tl;dr: Headline and Core CPI printed 'as expected' (which is likely disappointing for the whisper numbers and remember the last CPI printed 'cooler than expected'). Goods inflation continues to slow but Services inflation continues to soar (highest in over 40 years). Shelter costs continue to soar.

* * *

Expectations for this morning's headline CPI ranges from +6.3% to +6.8% YoY, with consensus seeing a 0.1% decline MoM - something the world and his pet rabbit has bid stocks up into anticipating this as the signal for an about face by The Fed on their higher for longer narrative as it 'proves' inflation has peaked.

It seems the 'not cooler than expected' CPI print is disappointing the pre-emptive market.

War, middle east, iran, Erdogan: jan11 **Erbil, also called Hawler is the capital and most populated city in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq, 1.5 million; In 2020, it was estimated that 450,000 refugees had settled in the Erbil metropolitan area since 2003,**

History, islam, stats: **read later: Muslim conquest of Persia**
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Muslim_conquest_of_Persia

war, middle east: estimated 136 000 buildings damaged or destroyed in mosul due to battle, 8000 buildings destroyed in Mosul's Old City; According to the International Organization for Migration, more than 1 million people—out of a pre-Islamic State population of close to 4 million—had fled Mosul by August 2017.

An estimated 8,000 buildings were destroyed or heavily damaged in Mosul’s Old City, and few of them have since been rebuilt. When including other parts of the city where the battle raged, estimates of total buildings damaged or destroyed are as high as 138,000.

Reconstruction has been painfully slow, held back by lack of funds and the endemic corruption that siphons off much of the money that does trickle in. Five years after liberation, Mosul’s international airport is still shut down, and the city’s main hospital remains destroyed. People adjust and learn to cope—and new power players have emerged in the city. Photos of Shiite militia leaders, who have no popular following in Mosul but whose fighters entered the city during its liberation and stayed, adorn public squares to show who is ultimately in control. They include Iranian Quds Force Gen. Qassem Soleimani, who was killed in a U.S. strike in 2020, and pro-Iran militia leaders Asaib Ahl al-Haq and Qais al-Khazali.

War, middle east: **The names of many Iraqi cities—Fallujah, Najaf, Tikrit, Mosul—became familiar to Western audiences only as bloody places of war, just like Ukrainian towns today or Bosnian ones three decades ago.**

Markets, vaccine: jan11 **moderna considering raising the price of it's vaccine by 400%, accorinding to the wallstreetjournal**

Moderna is considering raising the price of its COVID-19 vaccine by over 400 percent—from $26 per dose to between $110 and $130 per dose—according to a report by The Wall Street Journal.

Censorship: **judicial authoritarianism, pernicious,already example in singapore of leaders using the excuse of libel to bankrupt opposition and movement who dared question him, his corruption, and his authoritawww**

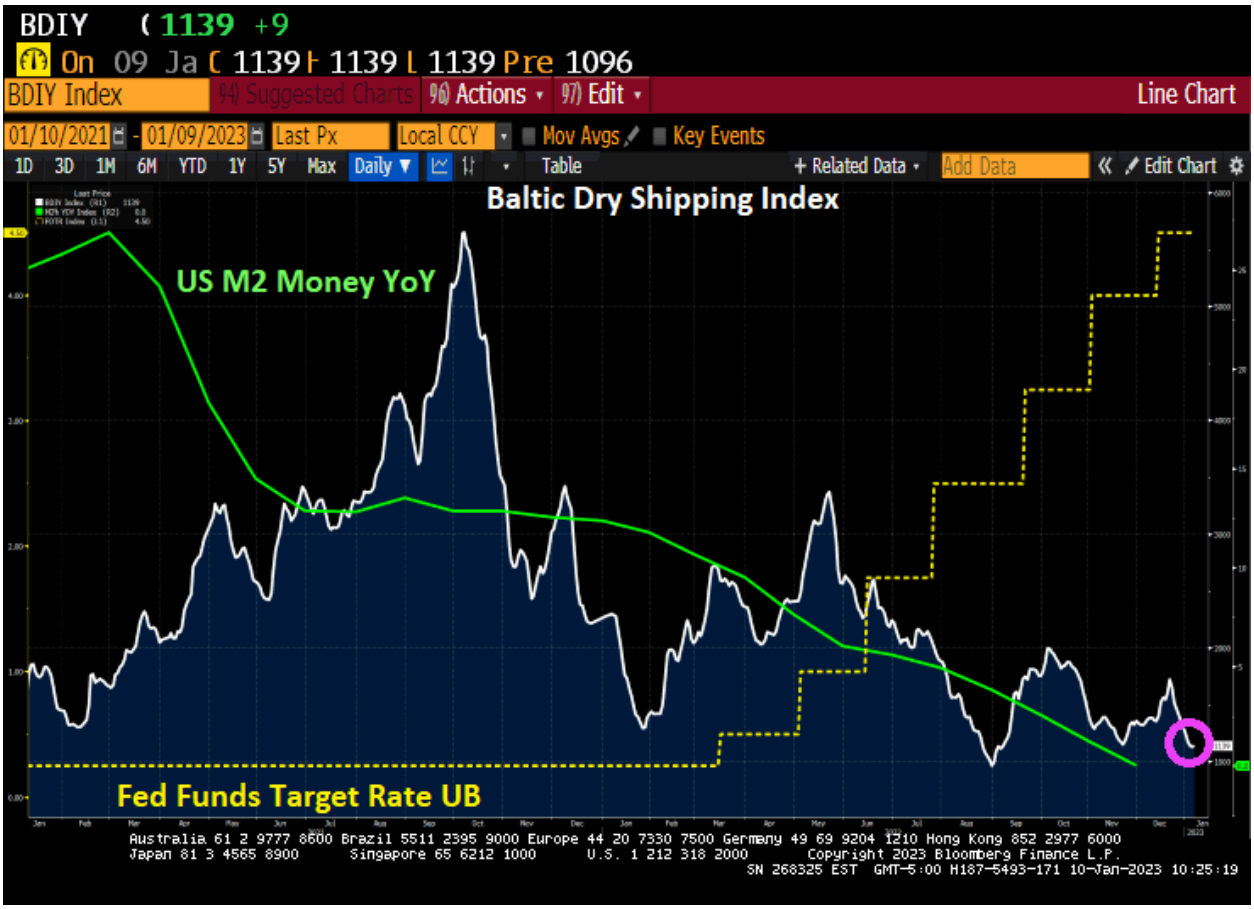
There are many ways to lose one’s democracy but the judicial road to authoritarianism is perhaps the most pernicious one.

It started in Singapore by Lee Kuan Yew who bankrupted movements, opposition parties and opponents using libel actions to suppress those who would question him to avoid exposure of his corruption (think Canadian truckers and Twitter libel cases for defending Jeremy Corbyn in the UK).

Vaccine, health, censorship, war: jan11 **reporters gets woozy on ctv edmonton in routine local news set....could be fake, part of pushing this narrative that the vaccine was bad and the government lied...why would the msm report so much on this?**

Markets: jan11 US Consumer Credit UP 7.9% YoY In November While Personal Savings Collapses -64.8% YoY

Markets, government: jan11 **Americans are running out of money. Last time saving was this low was 2006-07. Right before GFC.; Baltic Dry shipping index is falling with M2 Money growth YoY.**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Edit Chart
Baltic Dry Shipping Index
US M2 Money YoY
Fed Funds Target Rate UB
Australia 61 2 9777 8600 Brazil 5511 2395 9000 Europe 44 20 7330 7500 Germany 49 69 9204 1210 Hong Kong 852 2977 6000
Japan 81 3 4565 8900 Singapore 65 6212 1000 U.S. 1 212 318 2000
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SN 268325 EST GMT-5:00 H187-5493-171 10-Jan-2023 10:25:19

War: jan11 **Inside Ukraine's 120+ Mile Salt Mine Tunnels Just Captured By Russia's Wagner Group**

Markets: jan11 **Stocks & Bonds Rip, Yield Curve Inversion Deepens Ahead Of 'Most Important CPI Print Ever'**

Markets, government: jan11 **9 months until debt-limit d-day ,goldman analysts predict it will have as big of an impact on financial markets as a similar episode that occured in 2011**

"**The debt limit likely poses the greatest political risk next year, and we expect it to rival the 2011 episode in its disruption to financial markets and the economy.**

War: jan11 **At least 17 people died Monday in Peru as protesters clashed with security forces in city of Juliaca, Puno region, highest death toll since the unrest began in early December when Castillo was removed and arrested following a widely condemned attempt to dissolve Congress**

Israel, war, history: **quick breakdown of current levant**

"Year by year, the coastal enclave records a significant increase in the number of people despite the fact that most of them have been suffering from poverty, unemployment, as well as food insecurity, resulting from the Israeli blockade," the ministry added.

Since 2007, the Palestinians in Gaza suffer from extremely difficult living conditions due to the Israeli-imposed blockade on the coastal enclave after Hamas, which won the legislative elections, seized the territory from Fatah.

Moreover, the Israeli army launched five large-scale wars and dozens of short military raids against the Palestinians in Gaza, which left thousands dead and destroyed thousands of residential and industrial as well as government buildings.

In 2012, the United Nations said in its annual report that the Gaza Strip will be "unlivable" if the Israeli blockade

persists. Since then, the UN repeatedly warned of the sharp deterioration in the Gaza Strip.

War, government:"Activists Urge U.S. Apology, Fair Compensation, for U.S. Marshall Island Nuclear Testing", Marshall Islanders are still plagued by health and environmental effects of the 67 U.S. nuclear bomb tests there from 1946 to 1958, which included "Castle Bravo" at Bikini Atoll in 1954 - the largest U.S. bomb ever detonated. Jan11

Markets, inflation, government: January 10, 2023 Panel on "Central Bank Independence and the Mandate—Evolving Views”

On the first point, the case for monetary policy independence lies in the benefits of insulating monetary policy decisions from short-term political considerations.[1] Price stability is the bedrock of a healthy economy and provides the public with immeasurable benefits over time. But restoring price stability when inflation is high can require measures that are not popular in the short term as we raise interest rates to slow the economy. The absence of direct political control over our decisions allows us to take these necessary measures without considering short-term political factors. I believe that the benefits of independent monetary policy in the U.S. context are well understood and broadly accepted.[2]

In a well-functioning democracy, important public policy decisions should be made, in almost all cases, by the elected branches of government. Grants of independence to agencies should be exceedingly rare, explicit, tightly circumscribed, and limited to those issues that clearly warrant protection from short-term political considerations.

With independence comes the responsibility to provide the transparency that enables effective oversight by Congress, which, in turn, supports the Fed's democratic legitimacy. At the Fed, we treat this as an active, not passive, responsibility, and over the past several decades we have steadily broadened our efforts to provide meaningful transparency about the basis for, and consequences of, the decisions we make in service to the American

public. We are tightly focused on achieving our statutory mandate and on providing useful and appropriate transparency.[3]

In light of the softer data on wages and on services activity from last Friday, there was a lot riding on Fed Chair Powell's speech at the Riksbank event on central bank independence. However, Powell said nothing specific about the upcoming Fed meeting. The Chair was, however, able to squeeze in a reference to the Fed prioritizing inflation over employment in the near term, when he said that the case for monetary policy independence lies in the benefits of insulating monetary policy decisions from short-term political considerations. According to him, *"the absence of direct political control over our decisions allows us to take these necessary measures without considering short-term political factors."* It's hard to take such general remarks as a cue for one vote or the other. Logically, markets shrugged and remained focused on the US CPI data coming up tomorrow. A soft reading that vindicates the recent improvement in sentiment is now widely expected.

Perhaps Powell's most interesting comments pertained to climate change. He said that the *"Fed is not and will not be a climate policymaker"*. Well, tell that to ECB President Christine Lagarde or board member Schnabel, who have been more than vocal on taking climate policies into account. The main difference between the two central banks lies in their mandates:

The Federal Reserve Act demands the Federal Reserve to conduct monetary policy "*so as to promote effectively the goals of maximum employment, stable prices, and moderate long-term interest rates*". It will require new and explicit legislation from Congress to allow the Fed to use monetary policy or supervisory actions to actively promote the energy transition. Such legislation won't be forthcoming in this Congress, that's for sure, and it is hard to see any political consensus forming further out too.

The ECB, instead, has already seen its mission creeping beyond the core responsibility of maintaining price stability –which, as Powell said, work best when politics is at arm's length–towards its secondary objective of "*supporting the general economic policies in the European Union*". Among others, these are "*sustainable and non-inflationary growth respecting the environment*" and "*a high level of employment and of social protection*".

This leaves the democratically unaccountable central bank exposed to political interests, allowing the institution to be (mis-)used for implementing policies and measures that may not have been successful in the political process. In other words, if governments fail to

hold carbon emitters accountable by implementing taxes specifically targeting them or by tightening regulations on their activities, the central bank could be the go-to work-around. **Enmeshing the central bank more and more in politics muddies the waters over its responsibilities, which eventually might compromise its ability to set interest rates without considering short-term political factors**. Secondly, as the Global Daily highlighted many times, **there is no reason why mission creep should stop at climate change. If you can do Green QE, you can also do Camo QE.**

I am writing today's Daily from my home near Amsterdam on a January early-morning and it is slightly above 10 degrees Celsius outside. I am not using any heating and probably won't turn on it until the evening. It was expected that Europe would experience a difficult winter with freezing temperatures, gas shortages and forced rationing, widespread industrial shutdowns and a severe economic downturn, but the weather gods decided otherwise. A few more weeks of above-average temperatures and the 2023 filling season from April to end September may be a breeze.

The other popular euro bull narrative of the latest couple of days – as this is typically how long narratives last in the current volatile environment – is that Chinese economic developments have been largely beneficial to Europe in two subsequent ways: first, last year's zero-Covid policy helped to keep commodity and more specifically energy prices in check, while it wasn't as restrictive enough to prevent a gradual recovery of supply chain performance. It's hard to imagine, but Europe's inflation problems could have been a lot worse. And now, when Europe's growth outlook is at serious risk, the Chinese have U-turned on zero-Covid and look focused on boosting domestic demand after the current wave of infections crests.

This is of course good news for European exporters of capital- and consumer goods, but there are some important caveats. As in large parts of the Western world in 2021/2022, a lot is riding on the huge pile of pandemic savings that has been amassed during the long periods of suppressed consumption. But in China too the distribution of these excess savings is strongly skewed towards the wealthy. Secondly, we also believe that the ongoing problems in China's property sector will cap the recovery of consumer demand, while the sector itself isn't the infinite source of economic growth and local government funding as it was prior to 2021. Indeed, the only way Chinese consumption can rise in a significant and structural way is when consumers get a larger share of the economic pie: that is still a long way off.

Finally, before we wrap up today's comment, it's worth having a look at the latest update of Indeed's posted wage figures. Their data are based on new job advertisements on the Indeed jobs platform and give an idea of the underlying wage dynamics. These dynamics should show up with a lag in the official average wage data (e.g., as an analogy, think of the official data as a bath tub full of current wage contracts, with new contracts of hires coming out of the faucet and old contracts of fired/resigned workers leaving through the drain). The Indeed figures continue to point at a deceleration of advertised wage growth in the United States (to 6.3% y/y, from a peak of 9% in March 2022 and 3% in December 2019), and more muted deceleration in the United Kingdom (6.0% y/y, from 6.4% in June) and six Eurozone countries (4.9% y/y, from 5.2% in November). So in all jurisdictions, wages and salaries advertised in new job postings are still rising faster than before the pandemic and the subsequent "Great Resignation", but growth seems to have peaked while remaining well below inflation.

War: jan11 At Least 5 Killed In Kabul Suicide Blast Possibly Targeting Chinese Delegation

"There was supposed to be a Chinese delegation at the foreign ministry today, but we don't know if they were present at the time of the blast," deputy minister of information and culture Muhajer Farahi described to AFP.

It's unclear if the Chinese delegation was targeted. **If so, it would appear that terrorists are specifically seeking to go after the Chinese government's diplomatic and business presence** in the country.

China has already been on alert, with Taliban authorities earlier vowing to protect Chinese nationals, after the December 12 bombing and shooting attack on Kabul's Longan Hotel, which is well-known gathering place of Chinese businessmen and diplomats.

South China Morning Post reviews of that earlier assault and others:

*Isis - a key rival of the Taliban - claimed responsibility for the December 12 attack on Kabul Longan Hotel, which **left five Chinese nationals injured**. Several Afghan military and police were also killed.*

*The assault on the Longan - **a hotel run by Chinese that had served a wave of visiting Chinese businessmen** since the Taliban took over the country - came less than two weeks after an attack on Pakistan's embassy in Kabul. In September, a suicide bomber hit Russia's mission.*

During that prior attack involving gunmen storming the hotel, multiple Chinese nationals were injured trying to flee, and Afghan security forces were killed:

War: jan11 **Computer "Outage" Hits Canadian Flight System Hours After US System Went Down, the second NOTAM system in North America over the last 12 hours that has been hit with outages, US grounded all planes earlier this morning due to NOTAM outages but restored departures around 0900 ET.**

The disruption was enough to spark a travel nightmare for US travelers today and is worsening by the hour. The latest figures from flight tracking website FlightAware show 8,000 flights have been delayed and another 1,200 canceled.

Censorship, media, government, tech: jan25 **(4 days ago) Las Vegas judge dies by suicide 1 year after ethics probe resignation**

A Las Vegas judge and mother of three killed herself a year after leaving her position to avoid a complicated ethics probe that began over what she said was her attempt to save her daughter from prostitution.

Melanie Andress-Tobiasson, 53, who stepped down as a Justice of the Peace before a hearing regarding her ethics investigation, was reportedly found dead by suicide Friday, 8NewsNow reported. The outlet did not provide details about how she died.

The judge charged that pimps were “targeting the daughters of judges and law enforcement” to recruit them into prostitution.

Andress-Tobiasson was being investigated by Nevada’s Judicial Discipline Commission for almost two years before she agreed to resign in 2021.

Her problems began when her daughter Sarah, then 16, started working at a clothing store that Andress-Tobiasson claimed was a front for criminal activities and tried to stop it, first by reporting the issue to the police, the Daily Mail reported. She said the store, Top Knotch, was involved with prostitution and trying to recruit her daughter.

A Las Vegas judge and mother of three killed herself a year after leaving her position to avoid a complicated ethics probe that began over what she said was her attempt to save her daughter from prostitution.

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She called out Las Vegas cops for ignoring information about the alleged sex trafficking at the store. She claimed that the store was an unlicensed, underage nightclub and added that she was “terrified” of Shane Valentine, who ran the store at the time.

When The Post reached her daughter, Sarah Tobiasson, now 23, on Saturday, she hung up.

Andress-Tobiasson said she had to go to the FBI with the information after being ignored by local police — which resulted in officers investigating her for allegedly breaching judicial rules by making an allegation to federal agents.

A complaint filed against Andress-Tobiasson alleged that she failed to comply with and uphold the law, and allowed family interests and relations to influence her conduct, the Daily Mail reported.

Andress-Tobiasson asked cops to look into Valentine but said they ignored her claims. Valentine was later linked to a shooting where a couple was found dead.

They did not officially link him to the killings of Sydney Land, 21, and Nehemiah “Neo” Kauffman, 20, until months later, according to the Daily Mail.

But Andress-Tobiasson contacted Land’s mother and “began to personally investigate the case” because she thought that Valentine was responsible, the complaint stated.

It added that she used “burner phones” to contact Land’s mother and sent texts to another woman she thought was involved in the murder.

The commission alleged that Andress-Tobiasson stated publicly that she reached out to Valentine’s lawyer at the time and “told him to tell Valentine that if he called her daughter again, she would ‘take care of it herself,'” and that one time she “went to Shane Valentine’s house and kicked in the door.”

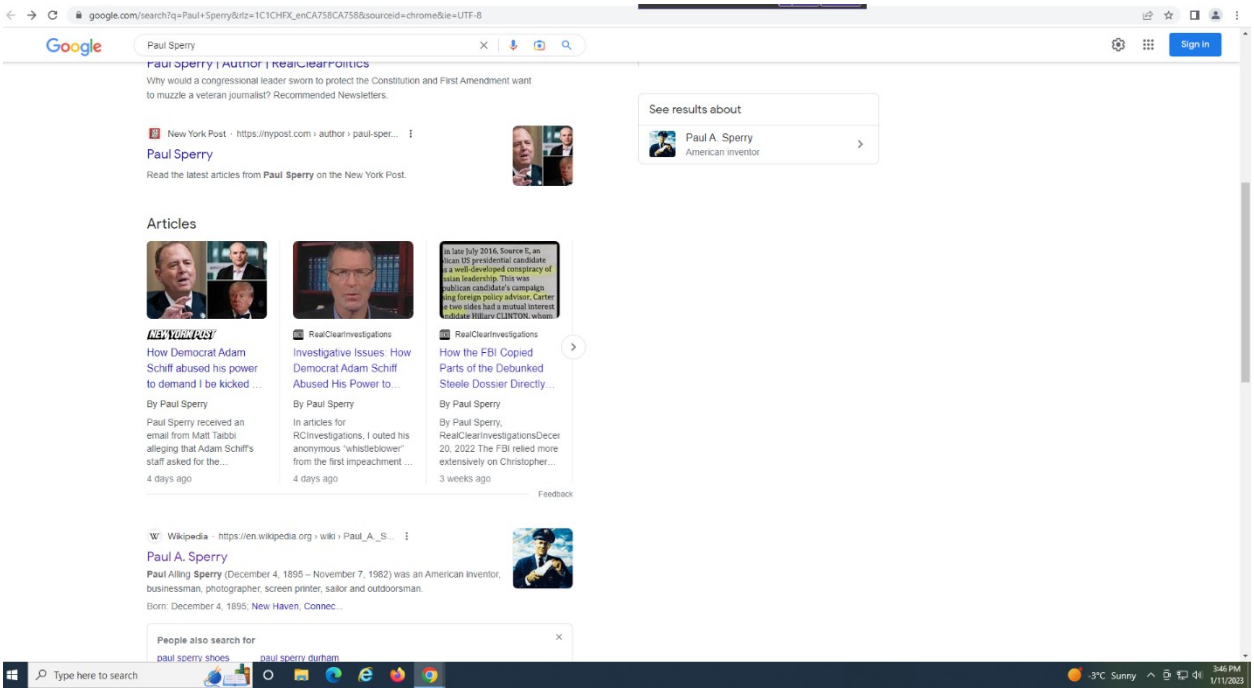
Detectives learned of Andress-Tobiasson’s activity, according to the charges, and launched an investigation into the judge, going as far as tracking her phone records.

They also alleged that she had links to a man called “Anthony Danna” who was a “known and documented organized crime figure.”

Andress-Tobiasson lived with her husband, Todd, in a $2 million mansion with a pool at the time of her death.

Censorship, journal: jan11 **censorship, nice example**

This is a google front page for a banned journalist.. But looking closer, you can that the Wikipedia page is for someone who is dead.


google.com/search?q=Paul+Sperry&rlz=1C1CHFX_enCA758CA758&sourceid=chrome&ie=UTF-8
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Paul Alling Sperry (December 4, 1895 – November 7, 1982) was an American inventor, businessman, photographer, screen printer, sailor and outdoorsman.
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American inventor
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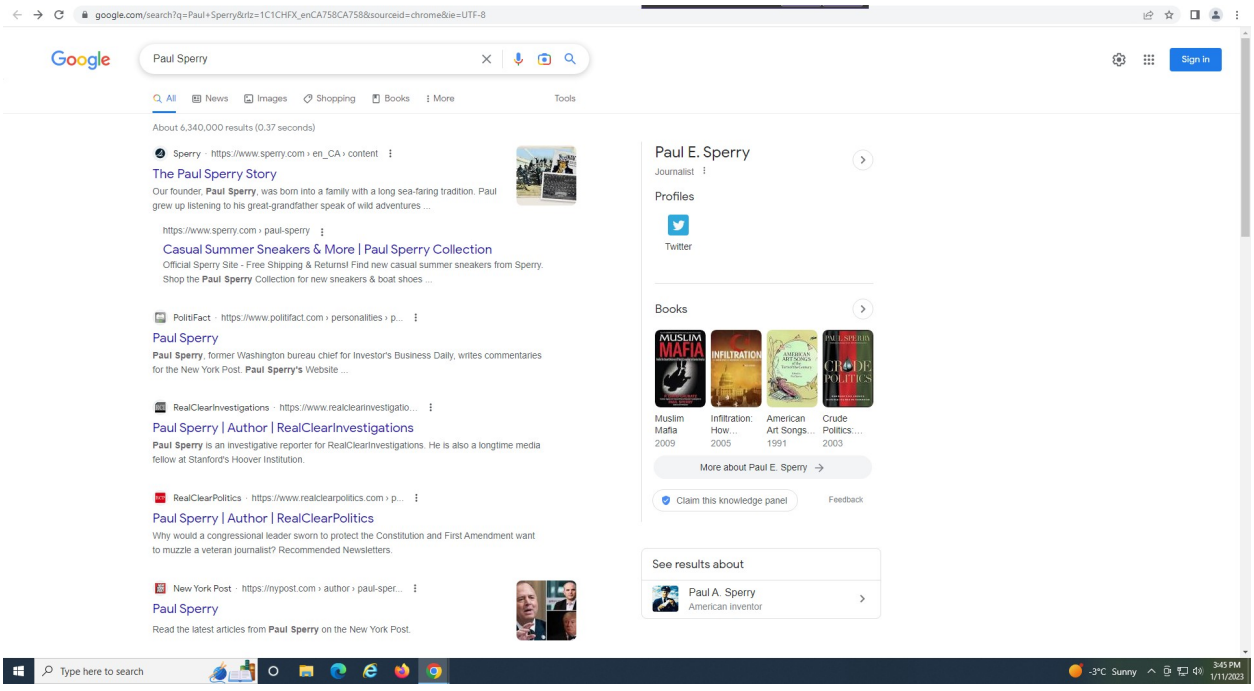
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Our founder, Paul Sperry, was born into a family with a long sea-faring tradition. Paul grew up listening to his great-grandfather speak of wild adventures ...
https://www.sperry.com › paul-sperry
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Official Sperry Site - Free Shipping & Returns! Find new casual summer sneakers from Sperry. Shop the Paul Sperry Collection for new sneakers & boat shoes ...
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Paul Sperry is an investigative reporter for RealClearInvestigations. He is also a longtime media fellow at Stanford's Hoover Institution.
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American inventor
Type here to search
-3°C Sunny
3:45 PM
1/11/2023

I’ve seen this happen with others before. For instance, with rich or powerful families, the top ranked wikipedia will be for a prior family member with a similar name, yet when you look, there will be nothing about the current member of the family that you originally intended to search for. An example I encountered was with Bettina Warburg, who at the time was receiving traffic from her blockchain videos. When you’d look for her Wikipedia, all you’d see is a post about some other Bettina Warburg from the family from 100’s of years ago.

Something similar also happens with Peter Oppenhiemer, a high ranking manager at a large brokerage in the United States. Nothing about his family comes up in his Wikipedia, only his professional details are given.

War, journal: jan11 **it just keep escalating....you just see more crazy escalation, and it's now to he point where things thatr would have shocked many before are now just seemingly be like normal events....."Top Marine General In Japan Bluntly Describes US Is "Setting The Theatre" For Future War With China"**

Vaccine, government, censorship: jan11 **Pentagon Drops COVID-19 Vaccine Mandate For Troops, More than 8,400 troops were forced out of the military for refusing the jab.**

Government, markets, inflation: jan11 **Shortage Fears Spike As Some Costco And Walmart Stores Run Out Of Eggs**

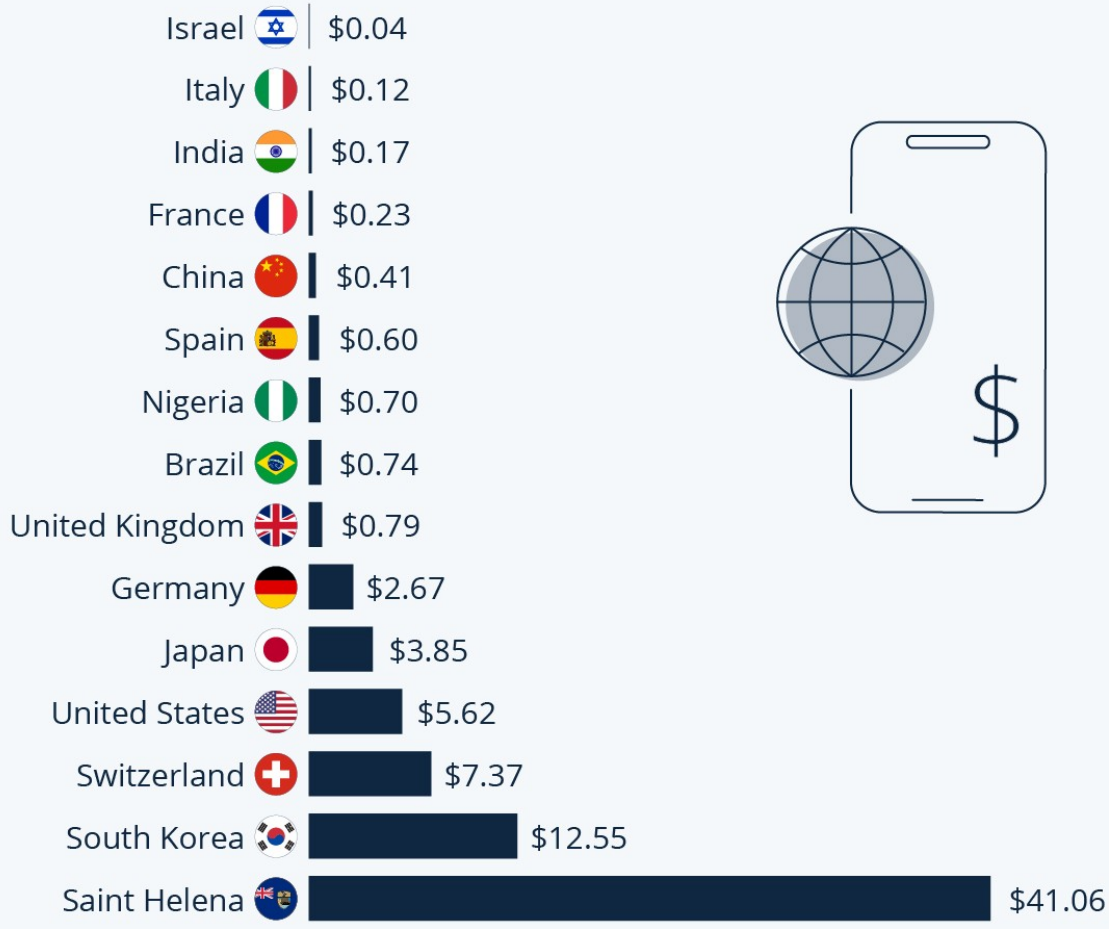
Government, censorship, markets: jan11 **Cannabis Grower Tilray Mulls Expansion Into Fruit And Vegetable Growing, Alcohol, While Awaiting U.S. Legalization**

sick joke..

stats: **canada way more expensive for data than everybody elswe**

The Cost of Mobile Internet Around the World

Average cost of 1GB of mobile data in selected countries/territories in 2022



Based on an analysis of more than 5,292 mobile data plans in 233 countries.
Source: Cable.co.uk

statista

Vaccine, censorship, media, war: jan11 **apparently jordan pweterson got sick during the first stages of the pandemic**

It so happens that I heard Jordan speak in Budapest only months before the lockdowns that coincided with **his own grave problem that he encountered with prescription medicine**: as with many he was misled about what he believed was a simple medication. The timing was a tragedy because it took him out of the space of public intellectual life right when we needed him most: during the early months of lockdowns.

His voice went silent during these times. It was heartbreaking. The very small resistance continued despite his incapacitation. Once he got better, he gradually became aware of what had taken place and then became ferocious, as any thinking person must. Thus his current issues with the authorities.

Looking back at this date, it seems almost like he saw what was coming. **In those months before lockdowns, I wrote the following report on what I saw in Budapest.**

History, war: **hungary from a visitors perspective; he breaks it down nicely**

But what you see is only on the surface. The scars of this city are extremely deep, having been put through astonishing traumas of totalitarianism of the left and right, the bombings, the terror and cruelty and poverty—the experience is not that far back in history. It was tyrannized by Soviet occupation twice, first after World War I and then following World War II, between which it experienced Nazi occupation and devastating Allied bombing that destroyed its infrastructure (all of which has since been rebuilt).

brownstonedotorg/articles/jordan-peterson-enemy-of-the-state/

war: jan11 **individuals involved in the blockade have demanded that Azerbaijan establish state control over the Lachin corridor**

blockade is considered to be a violation of the 2020 Nagorno-Karabakh ceasefire agreement, which stipulates that Azerbaijan guarantee the security of people and cargo moving along the Lachin corridor in both directions.[9]

The Republic of Artsakh is a self-declared de facto state also known as the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic, which is populated by ethnic Armenians within Azerbaijan.

Azerbaijan does not recognize the sovereign status of Artsakh and, since the 2020 Nagorno-Karabakh war, it no longer promises any special status or autonomy to its ethnically Armenian residents.[37] The ongoing 2022 blockade of Artsakh is the second time Azerbaijan isolated the region from Armenia and is distinct from the other ongoing blockade of Artsakh (and Armenia) from Azerbaijan which began in 1988:[38] that is, transportation between Artsakh and the rest of internationally-recognized Azerbaijan has been prohibited by Azerbaijan since 1988.

The current 2022 blockade is an extension of the 1988 blockade insofar as it isolates Artsakh from Armenia (its only connection with the outside world). The first isolation of Artsakh lasted for 4 years (August 1988 to May 1992) as part of the First Nagorno-Karabakh War.[39] During the winter of 1991–1992 Stepanakert, the capital of Nagorno-Karabakh was blockaded by Azerbaijani forces and many civilian targets in the city were intentionally bombarded by artillery and aircraft.[40] The bombardment of Stepanakert and adjacent Armenian-held towns and villages during the blockade caused widespread destruction.

Because the Lachin corridor remains the only transportation route in and out of Artsakh,[7] it is often described as an essential "lifeline" to Artsakh residents.[41][42][43][44] In 2017, a second and faster highway was built between Artsakh and Armenia (the Vardenis–Martakert highway), but this alternative route has been closed since Azerbaijan took control of the Dadivank-Sotk section (in Kalbajar) during the Second Nagorno-Karabakh War.[45][7] Regular air transit in and out of Artsakh has also not existed since the Stepanakert Airport was closed in 1990 during the First Nagorno-Karbakh War.[42] The Artsakh government has attempted to re-open a commercial airport various times since it was reconstructed in 2011 but has been blocked by Azerbaijan, who warn that airplanes flying over Karabakh will be destroyed.[46][47]

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2022%E2%80%932023_blockade_of_the_Republic_of_Artsakh

markets, stats, crypto: **owned so mcuh of the tokens that they can't realistics even sell them because their would be no market**

*[It] just **does not ascribe any value to holdings of dozens of illiquid cryptocurrency tokens**, where our holdings are so large relative to the total supply that our positions cannot be sold without substantially affecting the market for the token."*

So Bankman-Fried had $5 billion lying around and he didn't... just... disappear?

He couldnt....Where would he go..

War, history, government: jan11 # THE UK'S 83 MILITARY INTERVENTIONS AROUND THE WORLD SINCE 1945

Britain has deployed its armed forces for combat over 80 times in 47 countries since the end of the Second World War, in episodes ranging from brutal colonial wars and covert operations to efforts to prop up favoured governments or to deter civil unrest

The British military has used or threatened to use military force much more in the postwar world than is conventionally remembered or believed. *Declassified* has documented 83 interventions by the UK armed forces since 1945, in 47 different countries.

The most striking of the British uses of force have been the overt invasions or armed attempts to overthrow governments such as in British Guiana (now Guyana) in 1953, Egypt in the 1950s, Iraq in 2003 and Libya in 2011.

The brutal colonial counter-insurgency wars of the 1950s and 1960s – in Kenya, Malaya, Aden and Cyprus – involved the widespread use of torture and, often, pernicious operations to displace large numbers of people to control the local population.

In Malaya between 1948 and 1960, British forces herded hundreds of thousands of people into fortified camps, heavily bombed rural areas and resorted to extensive propaganda to win the conflict.

British brutality fighting 'Mau Mau' forces in Kenya demanding independence from the UK resulted in tens and perhaps hundreds of thousands of deaths, often from starvation in concentra **UK MILITARY INTERVENTIONS SINCE 1945**

Conflict	Britain's role
2022–present: Ukraine war	UK military aids combat operations, 'retired' special forces and other Britons fighting there, large supply of UK arms
2016-19: Covert operations in	SAS and SBS forces advising on and fighting Islamic

Libya	State
2015–present: Yemen war	British military training, advising, arming Saudi air force operations bombing Yemen, and secret ground deployment of UK forces
2014–present: War against Islamic State	RAF aircraft and drone strikes in Syria and Iraq and some special forces ground operations
2013-22: Intervention in Mali	Initial deployment of SAS followed by support to French-led counter-terrorism mission
2012 -present?: Covert war in Somalia	SAS force countering al-Shabab terrorists and drone strikes
2011–18: Covert war in Syria	Operations in support of opposition forces
2011: War in Libya	Air strikes and covert ground operations to overthrow Muammar Gaddafi regime
2003-09: Invasion and occupation of Iraq	UK forces played secondary role to US in military operations
2001–21: Invasion and occupation of Afghanistan	UK deployed ground forces, playing secondary role to US in military operations following 9/11
2000: Intervention in Sierra Leone	Deployment of ground forces to counter Revolutionary United Front militants
1998- 99: War against Yugoslavia (Kosovo)	Bombing of Yugoslav forces and covert support to the Kosovo Liberation Army
1998: Bombing of Iraq	Four-day campaign in December by US and UK to strike Iraqi regime targets
1994: Deployment to Kuwait	Military deployment to deter Iraqi threat to Kuwait
1991–2002: Bombing of Iraq	Sporadic air strikes on government targets in US/UK proclaimed no-fly zones in northern and southern Iraq
1990-91: Gulf war against Iraq	UK forces played secondary role to US in military operations to eject Iraq from Kuwait and defeat Saddam Hussein
1984–86: Covert operations in Soviet Union (Tajikistan/Uzbekistan)	Military operations to sabotage Soviet supply lines into Afghanistan
1980-88: Covert war in Afghanistan	Guerilla training, supply roles and arms deliveries in support of mujahideen forces fighting the Soviet occupation
1983: Covert operation in Belize	Deployment of forces to counter Guatemalan rebels
1982: Falklands war	War against Argentina over latter’s attempt to capture the Falklands/Malvinas
1981: Covert deployment to The Gambia	SAS deployment to reverse a military coup
1980: Intervention in New Hebrides (Vanuatu)	Military deployment to restore order
1977: Intervention in British Honduras (Belize)	Military deployment to deter threat from Guatemala
1977: Deployment in Bermuda	Military deployment to quell unrest

1975–76: Covert war in Angola	Covert aid to UNITA rebels to overthrow MPLA government
1975-76: ‘Cod war’ with Iceland	Navy deployments to reinforce British fishing claims
1972-73: ‘Cod war’ with Iceland	Navy deployments to reinforce British fishing claims
1970-71: Intervention in Musandam peninsula	Special forces invaded the peninsula, claimed by Oman
1970: Intervention in Jordan	Military deployment to prop up King Hussein
1969–1998: Intervention in Northern Ireland	Military deployment to counter IRA and civil protests involving sectarian support to loyalist forces
1965-75: War in Oman (Dhofar)	Military deployment in support of regime against insurgents in Dhofar province
1969: Intervention in Anguilla	Military deployment to prevent independence
1968–73: Depopulation of Chagos Islands	Forcible removal of inhabitants
1968: Deployment to Bermuda	Military deployment to quell unrest
1967: Deployment to Mauritius	Military deployment to quell unrest
1967: Deployment to Hong Kong	Military deployment to suppress riots
1965: Deployment to Mauritius	Military deployment to quell unrest
1965: Deployment to Kenya	Naval deployment to counter possible coup attempt
1964-65: Deployment to British Guiana	Military deployment to quell unrest
1964: Intervention in Kenya	Military deployment to quell army mutiny
1964: Intervention in Tanzania	Military deployment to quell army mutiny
1964: Intervention in Uganda	Military deployment to quell army mutiny
1963-7: War in Aden (south Yemen)	Operations to suppress revolt against UK rule
1963–66: War in Borneo	Military deployment to counter Indonesian forces in support of Malaysia
1963: Deployment to Swaziland	Military deployment to break strike and civil unrest
1962-70: Covert war in Yemen	Covert operations to support insurgents against government
1962–63: Intervention in Brunei	Military deployment to suppress revolt against government
1962: Deployment to British Guiana (Guyana)	Military deployment to quell demonstrations
1962: Deployment to British Honduras (Belize)	Deployment to counter Guatemalan armed incursion
1961-73: War against Vietnam	UK provided counter-insurgency advice and arms to South Vietnam regime, deployed covert forces, and gave military intelligence to US operations
1961: Intervention in Kuwait	Intervention to counter alleged threat from Iraq to Kuwait
1961: Deployment to Zanzibar	Deployment to suppress riots

1960-61: War in Cameroon	Military campaign to counter insurgency in Southern Cameroons
1959: Deployment in Maldives	Landing of troops to counter the Gan islands secessionist riots
1959: Intervention in Nyasaland (Malawi)	Deployment to quell riots and uprising against British rule
1958-60: ‘Cod war’ with Iceland	Navy deployments to reinforce British fishing claims
1958: Intervention in Jordan	Military deployment to prop up regime
1958: Deployment in Bahamas	Military deployment to counter general strike
1957- 59: Covert war in Indonesia	Covert operation with US to support rebellion against government
1957-9: Intervention in Oman	War against rebels
1957: Deployment in British Honduras (Belize)	Reinforcement to counter Guatemalan claims to the territory
1956-62: Border war in Northern Ireland	Deployment of military to counter the IRA along the Northern Ireland/Ireland border
1956-59: War in Cyprus	War against insurgents
1956: Invasion of Egypt	Military intervention with France and Israel over Suez Canal
1955: Intervention in Buraimi Oasis	Military deployment to counter Saudi claims to the area
1953: Coup in British Guiana (Guyana)	Military deployment to overthrow government
1952-60: War in Kenya	Colonial war and 'resettlement' operations
1951-54: Egypt (Suez Canal zone)	Deployment to counter insurgency against British rule
1951: Iran blockade	Deployment of warships to blockade Abadan port after Iranian government nationalised oil operations
1950-3: Korean war	Major US-led war to support South Korea against the North
1950: Deployment to Singapore	Military deployment to suppress riots
1949–52: Covert war in Albania	Operations supporting guerillas fighting communist forces
1949: Deployment to Aqaba (Jordan)	Military deployment to deter threat from Israel
1948-60: War in Malaya	Colonial war and 'resettlement' operations
1948–52: Occupation of Eritrea	Military deployment and counter-insurgency
1948: Deployment to British Honduras (Belize)	Intervention to deter Guatemala from invading
1947: Deployment to Aden	Deployment to suppress riots
1946-52: Covert war in Baltic states	Operations supporting guerillas fighting Soviet forces

1945–48: War in Israel/Palestine	Military activities in aid of both Arab and Israeli forces, overall facilitating Israel's takeover of Palestine
1945–48: Covert war in Ukraine	Operations supporting guerillas fighting Soviet forces
1945-6: Intervention in Indonesia	Deployment to suppress Indonesian independence movement
1945-6: Intervention in Vietnam	Deployment to suppress Vietnamese independence movement
1944-9: Greek civil war	Military/covert operations to support Greek government

Covert wars

Covert military operations have been planned by Whitehall officials in numerous instances where their strategy would be unpopular at home or controversial abroad. British governments have if anything become less and less transparent about these covert operations over time.

The beginnings after the war were when UK forces sought to stir up opposition to emerging communist rule in Albania, Ukraine and the Baltic States in the late 1940s - operations which all failed to prevent these countries coming under communist control.

Covert wars continued in the 1950s in Indonesia - in an attempt to promote a rebellion against nationalist president Sukarno - and in the 1960s in Yemen - in a war to bog down the forces of Egypt's leader, Gamal Abdel Nasser, in which tens of thousands of people died.

In the 1980s, Margaret Thatcher's government executed Britain's largest postwar covert operation to date, in backing mujahideen warriors to counter the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan.

The strategy involved not only supplying arms and training for combat inside Afghanistan, but also the sabotage of Moscow's supply lines inside the then Soviet republics of Tajikistan and Uzbekistan.

British covert operations have recently proliferated again in view of the unpopular wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. In 2011-13, Whitehall

planners secretly launched at least four covert wars involving special forces on the ground in Libya, Syria, Somalia and Mali.

Overt intervention

Some of the UK's most brutal interventions have been with the US, notably the bombing of and occupation of Afghanistan after 2001, the UK's supportive role in Washington's near-destruction of Vietnam from the 1960s and the forcible depopulation of the Chagos Islands from 1968-73, to make way for a US military base in the Indian Ocean.

After Iraq invaded Kuwait in 1990, the UK acted as the US' junior partner in a ferocious bombardment of Iraq the following year that destroyed much of the country's civilian infrastructure. Anglo-American bombing of Iraq continued for a decade after the Gulf War until the 2003 invasion.

On several occasions, the British military has been used to counter threats to favoured allies from neighbouring countries, such as the deployment to Kuwait in 1994 to deter a threat from Iraq's Saddam Hussein and the dispatch of troops to Aqaba in Jordan in 1949 to fend off a territorial threat from Israel.

The UK intervened at least four times in British Honduras (which became independent as Belize in 1981) - in 1948, 1957, 1962 and 1977 - to deter Guatemala from its claims over the territory. The Falklands war of 1982 - after Argentina invaded the islands - was far from being the first time a Latin America state had claimed territory it saw as a relic of the colonial period.

Only a handful of these interventions might be regarded as truly benign. The UK's deployment of forces to Sierra Leone in 2000 prevented the vicious Revolutionary United Front taking control of the capital, Freetown.

Britain's involvement in the Korean war in the early 1950s - one of the most destructive conflicts of the past century - upheld the non-communist south of the country, and allowed a future South Korea to prosper.

But most of the UK military deployments have been to maintain colonial or postcolonial control of states and key resource interests, uphold British prestige or great power status, and demonstrate to the US - Whitehall's key ally - that London is, with Washington, still prepared to continue to rule the world by force.

Not included

The list of interventions is far from exhaustive. It is unlikely to have found all the British military deployments for combat since 1945. Further, it does not include mercenary operations by British personnel, often backed by Whitehall, or purely intelligence operations to overthrow governments.

It also excludes military involvement in international peacekeeping missions, relief activities and actions to evacuate UK nationals from countries. Finally, it does not include training and advisory military operations which, often linked to British arms exports, are another key way Whitehall officials try to maintain their global influence.

Britain's armed forces have a far more extensive base network than ever presented by the Ministry of Defence. New research by Declassified reveals the extent of this global military presence for the first time – as the government announces an extra 10% spending on defence.

tion camps.

War, Russia: jan11 **Using Ukraine as a Bloodied Pawn, written today**

Ted Galen Carpenter is senior fellow for defense and foreign policy studies at the Cato Institute. Carpenter served as Cato's director of foreign policy studies from 1986 to 1995 and as vice president for defense and foreign policy studies from 1995 to 2011.

U.S. and NATO officials routinely contend that assisting Ukraine in its war against Russia is a moral as well as a strategic imperative. Ukraine is

supposedly on the frontlines of a global struggle between democracy and freedom on one side and brutal authoritarianism on the other. That justification lacks credibility for two reasons. First, Ukraine itself is a corrupt, repressive autocracy, not a freedom-loving democracy, even if one uses the most flexible, expansive definition of "democracy." Second, the Russia-Ukraine war is a nasty turf fight over mundane stakes, not part of an existential global confrontation between good and evil.

It is hard to determine how much Western political leaders and their media mouthpieces actually believe their own moralistic propaganda. Some likely have drunk the Kool Aid, but others clearly have more practical (and less savory) reasons for wanting Washington to wage a proxy war against Russia.

However, Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin may have inadvertently disclosed a broader, ignoble motive for the proxy war. An April 2022 statement that he issued in Poland at the end of his stealth visit to Kyiv emphasized that Washington's goal was not merely to help Ukraine repel Russia's invasion, but to "weaken Russia" to the point that it could no longer pose a threat to any other country. Achieving such an objective would indisputably require a prolonged war in Ukraine – regardless of the consequences to the Ukrainian people.

The goal in Afghanistan then, as it is in Ukraine now, was simply to harass and bleed Washington's adversary. Then, as now, there was little concern about the impact on the beleaguered inhabitants in the country serving as an arena for a proxy war – and surprisingly little concern about the wider geo-political ramifications.

War, history, middle east: jan11 **although this did happen, what the persn says is a an immediately knowable outright lie, don't need evidence: ". Tom Twetten, the number 2 official in the CIA's clandestine service during the 1980s, later admitted that US leaders had no postwar plan for Afghanistan."**

War, journal: jan11 **US now just openly admitting to training Ukrainians in their own country: "US to Begin Training Ukrainians on Patriot Missiles in Oklahoma Next Week"**

The Pentagon announced on Tuesday that the US will begin training 100 Ukrainian soldiers how to use Patriot missile defense systems as soon as next week on US soil at Fort Sill, Oklahoma.

The US has been training thousands of Ukrainians how to use US-provided weapons at its bases in Germany and elsewhere in Europe but hasn't had similar training inside the US since Russia invaded Ukraine.

Russia strongly warned the US against providing the Patriots to Kyiv, saying the systems would become a target for Russia's armed forces. But like most Russian warnings, it was ignored, and the US continues to escalate military aid, most recently by pledging Bradley Fighting Vehicles for the first time as part of an arms package worth over $3 billion.

History, holy roman empire, Germany: **jews, poland, most jews in eastern europe; nazi germany at its height composed almost all of europe; add: Spain was not allowed to join the newly created United**

Later the same year Franco met with Hitler in Hendaye to discuss Spain's possible accession to the Axis Powers. The meeting went nowhere, but Franco did help the Axis—whose members Italy and Germany had supported him during the Spanish Civil War (1936–1939)—in various ways.
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Spain_during_World_War_II

The term "axis" was first applied to the Italo-German relationship by the Italian prime minister Benito Mussolini in September 1923, when he wrote in the preface to Roberto Suster's *La Germania Repubblicana* that "there is no doubt that in this moment the axis of European history passes through Berlin" (*non v'ha dubbio che in questo momento l'asse della storia europea passa per Berlino*).[8] At the time, he was seeking an alliance with the Weimar Republic against Yugoslavia and France in the dispute over the Free State of Fiume.[9]

The term was used by Hungary's prime minister Gyula Gömbös when advocating an alliance of Hungary with Germany and Italy in the early 1930s.[10] Gömbös' efforts did affect the Italo-Hungarian Rome Protocols, but his sudden death in 1936 while negotiating with Germany in Munich and the

arrival of Kálmán Darányi, his successor, ended Hungary's involvement in pursuing a trilateral axis.[10] Contentious negotiations between the Italian foreign minister, Galeazzo Ciano, and the German ambassador, Ulrich von Hassell, resulted in a Nineteen-Point Protocol, signed by Ciano and his German counterpart, Konstantin von Neurath, in 1936. When Mussolini publicly announced the signing on 1 November, he proclaimed the creation of a Rome–Berlin axis.[9]

Initial proposals of a German–Italian alliance

Italy under *Duce* Benito Mussolini had pursued a strategic alliance of Italy with Germany against France since the early 1920s.[11] Prior to becoming head of government in Italy as leader of the Italian Fascist movement, Mussolini had advocated alliance with defeated Germany after the Paris Peace Conference (1919–1920) settled World War I.[11] He believed that Italy could expand its influence in Europe by allying with Germany against France.[11] In early 1923, as a goodwill gesture to Germany, Italy secretly delivered weapons for the *Reichswehr*, which had faced major disarmament under the provisions of the Treaty of Versailles.[11]

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Axis_powers

stats, tech: jan10 the ozone layer continues to strengthen as a result of the montreal protocol in 1989--an international agreement to phase out Ozone Depleting Substances--projected to fully recover from aerosol damamge in 2066

By 2066, the Antarctic ozone hole is expected to reduce to its size in 1980, while the Arctic hole will do the same around 2045. Thinning around other areas of the globe should recover around 2040.

Beyond CFCs, ozone-eating chemicals including halons, methyl chloroform, carbon tetrachloride, hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs) and methyl bromide were once abundant in refrigerators, air conditioners, aerosols, solvents and pesticides.

These compounds attack ozone by releasing chlorine and bromine atoms that degrade ozone molecules in the stratosphere.

Since the substances were banned, declining concentrations of chlorine and bromine have helped to limit human exposure to harmful UV rays from the sun that can cause skin cancer, cataracts and suppress the immune system. -DW

"Thanks to a global agreement, **humanity has averted a major health catastrophe due to ultraviolet radiation pouring through a massive hole in the ozone layer,**" said UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres last September 16, World Ozone Day.

War, markets: jan10 Roubini: More War Means More Inflation

War, journal: all major lies are for eithr military purposes or to force the population to do something for the greater good of the whole…jan10

Censorship, planet, war: jan10 Dr. Wallace Manheimer: Net-zero carbon policy will be the end of civilzation

Dr. Manheimer holds a physics PhD from MIT and has had a 50-year career in nuclear research, including work at the Plasma Physics Division at the U.S. Naval Research Laboratory. He has published over 150 science papers. In his view, there is “certainly no scientific basis” for expecting a climate crisis from too much carbon dioxide in the atmosphere in the next century or so. **He argues that there is no reason why civilisation cannot advance using both fossil fuel power and nuclear power, gradually shifting to more nuclear power.**

Perhaps one of the best voices to cast doubt on an approaching climate crisis, suggests the author, is Professor Emeritus Richard Lindzen of MIT, one of the world’s leading authorities on geological fluid motions:

What historians will definitely wonder about in future centuries is how deeply flawed logic, obscured by shrewd and unrelenting propaganda, actually enabled a coalition of powerful special interests to convince nearly everyone in the world that CO2 from human industry was a dangerous planet-destroying toxin. It will be remembered as the greatest mass delusion in the history of the world – that CO2, the life of plants, was considered for a time to be a deadly poison.
While the Climate Always Has and Always Will Change, There Is no Climate Crisis

Wallace Manheimer

Abstract
The emphasis on a **false climate crisis** is becoming a tragedy for modern civilization, which depends on relible, economic, and environmentally viable energy. The windmills, solar panels and backup batteries have none if these qualities. This **falsehood is pushed by a powerful lobby which Bjorn Lomborg has called a climate industrial complex**, comprising some scientists, most media, industrialists, and legislators. It has **somehow managed to convince many that CO2 in the atmosphere, a gas necessary for life on earth, one which we exhale with every breath, is an environmental poison.** Multiple scientific theories and measurements show that there is no climate crisis. Radiation forcing calculations by both skeptics and

believers show that the carbon dioxide radiation forcicng is about 0.3% of the incident radiation, far less than other effects on climate. **Over the period of human civilization, the temperature has oscillated between quite a few warm and cold periods, with many of the warm periods being warmer than today**. During geological times, it and the carbon dioxide level have been all over the place with no correlation between them.

ccsenetdotorg/journal/index.php/jsd/article/view/0/47745

vaccine, health, stats, censorship: jan10 **finally found a source on the mash thing. For some weird reason I haven't actually looked closely into it enough yet**

A wealth of empirical evidence has accumulated in support of the premise that masking healthy people in community settings achieves no substantial reduction in levels of respiratory-virus transmission.

With regards to RCTs – the most robust type of evidence – a review of 14 such studies into the spread of influenza found that masks led to no significant reduction in risk of infection for neither the wearer nor others. As for the SARS-CoV-2 virus, a large RCT (often referred to as the 'Danish mask study'), using appropriately-fitted and high-quality surgical masks, failed to realise any significant benefit for the wearer.

Multiple real-world comparisons of masked and unmasked geographical regions, have not delivered consistent support for the benefits of face coverings. There have been many regions where recorded infection rates were higher in areas with mask mandates as compared to those without, such as shown in this comparison of Scottish and English schools during the autumn 2021 term and a pre-post mandate comparison in Texas. Furthermore, a Spanish study evaluating the impact of mask requirements on primary schools concluded they had no significant effect on rates of viral transmission, and another investigation found that American states with compulsory-mask regulations did not realise significantly lower rates of viral transmission than states that did without such mandates. Also, a recent Spanish study that examined

over 300 people with covid-19 observed no association between risk of transmission and reported mask usage by their contacts.

Second, the virus is mainly spread by microscopic aerosols – not larger droplets – the former being far too small for masks to act as a barrier. Expert scientists have argued – despite some recent concerted efforts to censor their views – that cloth face coverings contain perforations that are far too big to act as a viral blockade and therefore 'offer zero protection'. Furthermore, one study concluded that cloth face coverings can amplify the spread of infectious particles by acting as a 'microniser' transforming large droplets, which would ordinarily fall to the ground close to the person, into smaller, truly airborne ones.

Impedes children's social development – Face-to-face interactions, and positive attachments to adult care givers, are essential for a child's social development. Masks deny children access to facial expressions, a rich source of information crucial for their psychological maturation and the growth of emotional intelligence. Disturbingly, an Ofsted report, published in April 2022, described the negative impact of covid-19 restrictions on children, highlighting their inability to understand facial expressions.

Enables criminals to evade identification – Unsurprisingly, there have been reports that widespread mask wearing is making it more difficult for police forces to identify crime suspects.

hartgroupdotorg/masks-do-more-harm-than-good/

war, middle east: jan10 **northern iraq offensive, 2014**

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/American-led_intervention_in_Iraq_(2014%E2%80%932021)

In June, Maliki accused unnamed regional countries, commanders and rival politicians of plotting the fall of Mosul, but has since remained quiet.

Nevertheless, Baghdad has pinned the blame on Gharawi. In late August, he was charged by the defense ministry with dereliction of duty. He is now awaiting the findings of an investigative panel and then a military trial. If found guilty, he could be sentenced to death. (Four federal police officers who served under Gharawi are also in custody awaiting trial, and could not be reached.) Parliament also plans to hold hearings into the loss of Mosul.

General Babakir Zebari was Gharawi's superior and chief of staff for Iraq's armed forces back in Baghdad. He agrees there were not enough men to defeat the jihadists. And Maliki had already rejected a chance to change that.

On June 7, Kurdistan President Massoud Barzani had offered to send Kurdish peshmerga fighters to help. The offer went all the way up to Maliki, who rejected it twice through his defense minister, according to Zebari.

United Nations and U.S. diplomats also attempted to broker an arrangement acceptable to Maliki, who remained suspicious of the Kurds' intent. Maliki insisted there were more than enough Iraqi forces. Barzani's office confirmed Kurdish offers of help were rejected.

On the afternoon of June 8, the Islamic State surged. More than 100 vehicles, carrying at least 400 men, had crossed to Mosul from Syria since the start of the battle.

Sleeper cells hiding in the city had been activated and neighbourhoods rallied to them, according to police and military.

And for now, Gharawi must take the blame for Mosul. Zebari believes that's unfair. "Gharawi was an officer doing a job, but his luck ran out just like many other officers," he said. "All of us have to shoulder some of the responsibility. Every one of us."

Two weeks ago in Baghdad, face unshaven, voice hoarse, Gharawi indicated a begrudging acceptance of his fate, whatever it might be.

"Maybe I'll be pardoned, maybe I'll be imprisoned, maybe I'll be hanged," he said.

https://www.reuters.com/article/us-mideast-crisis-gharawi-special-report-idUSKCN0I30Z820141014

A major result of Saddam Hussein's defeat in the Gulf War (1991) and Operation Provide Comfort was the ultimate establishment of Kurdish control over their traditional homeland in northern Iraq, known as Iraqi Kurdistan and "South Kurdistan".
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Masoud_Barzani

Lt. General **Mahdi Sabeh Al-Gharrawi** is an Iraqi police officer, the former Commander of the Iraqi Federal Police in Nineveh Province, and Lieutenant General of Iraqi Army.

Gharawi, along with several other military leaders, was dismissed from his position by Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki on 17 June 2014 for failing in his "professional and military duty". His dismissal came a week after the fall of much of Northern Iraq to anti-government forces in the 2014 Northern Iraq offensive.[1] He was sentenced to death by a military tribunal.[2]

After serving two years in prison, Gharawi was released on 1 August 2020.[3]

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mahdi_Al-Gharrawi

On 4 June, the insurgents began their efforts to capture Mosul. The Iraqi army officially had 30,000 soldiers and another 30,000 federal police stationed in the city, facing a 1,500-member attacking force. The Iraqi forces' actual numbers were much lower due to ghost soldiers, severely reducing combat ability.[10] After six days of combat and

massive desertions, Iraqi soldiers received orders to retreat. The city of Mosul, including Mosul International Airport and the helicopters located there, all fell under ISIL's control. An estimated 500,000 civilians fled from the city.

A former commander of the Iraqi ground forces, Ali Ghaidan, accused former Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki of being the one who issued the order to withdraw from the city of Mosul.[17]

Mosul remained under ISIL control for several years. Iraqi forces initiated an offensive on October 17, 2016, to retake the city; the Battle of Mosul ended in its liberation the following July.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fall_of_Mosul

The offensive resulted in 200,000 Yazidi civilians and 100,000 Iraqi Christians driven from their homes, 5,000 Yazidi men massacred, 5,000–7,000 Yazidi women enslaved, and a foreign military intervention against the Islamic State.

The ISIL capture of Sinjar on 3 August was accompanied by a massacre of thousands of Yazidi men, the selling of women into slavery, and 200,000 civilians fleeing Sinjar, of whom 50,000 fled to Mount Sinjar.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Northern_Iraq_offensive_(August_2014)

tech: jan10 (this was released in response to china saying that it had discovered how to crack RSA encryption (or something like that))
the quantum computing problem: The quantum bits, or qubits, used in today’s machines are highly unstable and only hold their quantum states for extremely short periods, creating “noise”. As a result, “errors accumulate in the computer and after around 100 operations there are so many errors the computation fails,” said Steve Brierley, CEO of quantum software company Riverlane.

https://www.ft.com/content/d64e45b4-692a-429e-bc64-146303ec7fdf

Hype around quantum computing recedes over lack of practical uses

China claims to have made a major breakthrough but western experts say any commercial benefits are still years away

Many companies are racing to prove that today’s quantum computers can perform tasks better than ‘classical’ machines © Adrien Nowak/Hans Lucas via Reuters

- Hype around quantum computing recedes over lack of practical uses on twitter (opens in a new window)
- Hype around quantum computing recedes over lack of practical uses on facebook (opens in a new window)
- Hype around quantum computing recedes over lack of practical uses on linkedin (opens in a new window)

current progress 0%

Richard Waters in San Francisco

35 MINUTES AGO

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Are today’s rudimentary quantum computers already on the verge of significant feats beyond the reach of traditional computers? Or have their capabilities been exaggerated, as practical uses for the technology recede into the future?

These questions have been thrown into sharp relief in recent days by a claim from a group of Chinese researchers to have come up with a way to break the RSA encryption that underpins much of today’s online communications.

The likelihood that quantum computers would be able to crack online encryption was widely believed a danger that could lie a decade or more in the future. But the 24 researchers, from a number of China’s top universities and government-backed laboratories, said their research showed it could be possible using quantum technology that is already available.

The quantum bits, or qubits, used in today’s machines are highly unstable and only hold their quantum states for extremely short periods, creating “noise”. As a result, “errors accumulate in the computer and after around 100 operations there are so many errors the computation fails,” said Steve Brierley, CEO of quantum software company Riverlane.

That has led to a search for more stable qubits as well as error-correction techniques to overcome the “noise”, pushing back the date when quantum computers are likely to reach their full potential by many years.

The Chinese claim, by contrast, appeared to be an endorsement of today’s “noisy” systems, while also prompting a flurry of concern in the cyber security world over a potentially imminent threat to online security.

By late last week, a number of researchers at the intersection of advanced mathematics and quantum mechanics had thrown cold water on the claim.

Brierley at Riverlane said it “can’t possibly work” because the Chinese researchers had assumed that a quantum computer would be able to simply run a vast number of computations simultaneously, rather than trying to gain an advantage through applying the system’s quantum properties.

Peter Shor, the American mathematician who first proposed a way for quantum computers to crack encryption, predicted that the inability to run all the computations at once meant it would take “millions of years” for a quantum computer to run the calculation proposed in the paper.

The Chinese research comes at a time when many companies working on the technology are in a race to prove that today’s “noisy” systems can reach so-called quantum advantage — the point at which a quantum computer can perform a useful task more efficiently than a traditional, or “classical”, machine, ushering in commercial use of the technology.

Four years ago, John Preskill, a professor of theoretical physics at the California Institute of Technology, predicted that quantum systems would start to outperform and might have commercial uses once they reached 50-100 qubits in size. But that moment has come and gone without quantum systems showing any clear superiority. IBM unveiled a 127-qubit computer more than a year ago, and last month announced that a new 433-qubit processor would be available in the first quarter of 2023.

These days, Preskill sounds more cautious. “I expect that for practical applications with significant business value we’ll have to wait for error-corrected fault-tolerant quantum computers,” he said, adding that this was likely to be “a ways off”. But he added that today’s systems already had scientific value.

One reason that hopes have retreated is that new ways have been found to program classical computers to handle tasks that were once thought to be beyond them.

This has pushed back the quantum frontier, delaying the moment when people building quantum systems can claim an advantage, said Oskar Painter, head of quantum hardware in the cloud computing division at Amazon, one of the tech companies that is building its own quantum computer. “They never finally could say, ‘This will be better,’” he said.

After years of rising expectations, the lack of practical uses for the technology has led some experts to warn of a potential “quantum winter” — a period when disappointment about a new technology leads to a waning of interest for a number of years. The term is borrowed from the AI “winters” of the 1970s and 1980s, when a

number of promising research avenues turned out to be dead ends, setting the field back for prolonged periods.

“People are worried it will be really harsh,” said Painter at Amazon Web Services. Like many in the field, though, he said that any short-term backlash was unlikely to hit long-term research funding. “I don’t think it will go away,” he added.

Receding hopes for early benefits from quantum computing have already contributed to a sharp fall in the stocks of a handful of companies that rode the wave of enthusiasm over the sector to go public since the middle of 2021.

Based on their peak share prices soon after they each went public, Arquit, IonQ, D-Wave and Rigetti reached a combined value of $12.5bn. That has since fallen to $1.4bn. Among the events to batter the quantum companies last year, IonQ was hit by a report from a short seller claiming its technology did not live up to its claims, while Rigetti founder Chad Rigetti was removed as CEO before quitting the company late in the year.

Part of the problem facing the sector has been an excess of “hype” about the technology, said Constantin Gonciulea, CTO of advanced technology at Wells Fargo. He compared the build-up of expectations around quantum to the crypto industry, as many non-experts have been drawn into the field and promises for the technology have far outgrown its potential in the near term.

Despite this, companies working on the first quantum machines and software still insist that practical uses of the technology are just around the corner — while continuing to carefully avoid giving too precise a prediction about exactly when that will be.

David Rivas, head of engineering and product at Rigetti, said that the company still believed it would reach quantum advantage when its computers have “a few hundred to a few thousand qubits”. Even if they can’t match the performance of today’s supercomputers, they will still be useful if they cost much less, or if they can operate faster or with more precision, he said.

For some quantum companies, the startling Chinese claim about online encryption was a sign that the technology’s big moment is drawing nearer. But for the doubters, the apparent impracticality of the research will serve as confirmation that quantum computing is

still an impressive science experiment rather than a practical technology.

Tech, war , china: jan10 The moment a quantum computer breaks RSA and other cryptography is obviously as massive advantage for the given country; convention computers could take up to millions of years to breaks an RSA encrypted message. RSA encryption is the bedrock of online, secure communication, but will have to look into it more.

The moment a quantum computer breaks RSA and other cryptography solutions is known as Q-Day among researchers, and it could be anything from a few years to decades away. The significant advantage this would give to a government was cited by some experts as a reason to doubt the Chinese researchers, arguing that if they really had cracked 2048-bit RSA, the Chinese government would have classified the research.

Markets, inflation: jan10 **Goldman embarks on biggest cost-cutting drive since financial crisis**

China, censorship, stats: jan10 full spectrum dominance, of your life: china's new social credit score
https://twitter.com/JamesMelville/status/1612431837145563136

crypto, tech: jan10 Coinbase Fires 20% Of Workforce; CEO Warns Of "Dark Times" In Crypto

war, china, vaccine: jan10 China Halts Visas Over 'Unfair' Japan, S.Korea Covid Travel Restrictions (both saying citizens from each respective country cannot enter china, or vise versa)

Starting last week Japan and South Korea halted the issuing of tourist visas for anyone coming from China, which Beijing slammed as "unacceptable" and "unscientific". The communist-run country has just fully opened up its borders after three years of lockdown.

according to the BBC, the most stringent measures remain for Chinese passengers entering South Korea. "At Seoul's Incheon International airport - the only South Korean airport still allowing flights from China - **arrivals are met by military personnel in personal protective equipment**," the report says.

Nikkei Asia has confirmed that China's retaliatory measures have quickly taken effect:

*The Chinese Embassy in South Korea earlier in the day said it has **stopped issuing short-term visas for family visits, business, tourism, medical and other matters**.*

Japanese travel agencies, meanwhile, told Nikkei that they can no longer apply for business visas or other visas for China for non-humanitarian purposes.

And the spat is directly influencing how Chinese are planning their first post-Covid travel itineraries, with CNBC relating the following from interviews:

"When China said they were opening the borders in January, all my friends said they're going to Japan and Korea," said Bonnie.

But they couldn't get visas, she said. "So they are now going to Thailand."

*Rein said Chinese travelers are **now headed to Singapore and Thailand because "both countries are welcoming us."***

one South African man living in China said "I know that many patriotic Chinese colleagues and friends **will avoid those countries for now because the**

practice of only testing passengers arriving from China is discriminatory."

"The actions can be adjusted if South Korea cancels its discriminatory entry ban against China," the Chinese embassy in Seoul clarified in a statement.

Markets, crypto, stats: jan10 Recursive trades between Grayscale trust and the Three Arrows Capital hedge fund allegedly inflated assets and fees, according to open letter from the Gemini president...

The letter followed a Jan. 2 appeal on Twitter to Silbert directly**, in which the Gemini co-founder said Genesis owed Gemini $900 million, **accusing the CEO of hiding "behind lawyers, investment bankers, and process."

*As a standalone business, it's inconceivable that Genesis would have lent so much money to 3AC given the low quality of the collateral that 3AC posted. Genesis made these loans because it was one piece of a much larger scheme designed to enrich the greater DCG enterprise. More specifically, Genesis was willing to recklessly lend to 3AC because 3AC was using the money for the kamikaze Grayscale net asset value (NAV) trade - **a recursive trade that ballooned the AUM of the Grayscale Bitcoin Trust (ticker: GBTC) and, as a consequence, the fees earned by its sponsor**, Grayscale Investments, LLC (Grayscale), a wholly owned subsidiary of DCG.*

*Genesis booked these interactions with 3AC as bona fide, collateralized loans. It is becoming clear, however, that this was not the case at all. In reality, 3AC was acting as a mere conduit for Genesis, allowing it to enter into what were effectively swap transactions of bitcoin for GBTC shares with the Grayscale Trust. In this transaction, Genesis was betting that shares would be worth more than bitcoin in the future. The 3AC "loan" was the bitcoin leg of the swap and the 3AC "collateral" was the GBTC leg of the swap. **3AC was a mule shuttling the assets between the parties, and as a result Genesis ended up owning massive risk.***

Up until 2021, Genesis won this zero-sum trade because the GBTC shares were worth more than bitcoin. Starting in 2021, however, Genesis lost this trade because the shares were worth less than bitcoin. Normally, all things being equal, the gains and losses would cancel each other out. There is no free lunch. In other words, Genesis would participate in both the wins and losses. Astonishingly, however, it appears that Genesis never participated in the wins because it apparently always ceded them - the GBTC share premium - to 3AC.

This meant that Genesis only participated in the losses, turning what would otherwise have been a zero-sum trade into a negative-sum trade. Crazy town.

Disturbingly, not only did Genesis not close out 3AC's position when the NAV trade inverted (something any rational, independently operated business would have done), it continued to lend to 3AC on attractive terms and accept GBTC as collateral. *For Grayscale, this had the desired effect of keeping GBTC shares from being sold into the market, which would have depressed the share price and further widened the discount to NAV. But for Genesis, this had the undesired effect of keeping its risk position open and allowing it to grow.*

cointelegraphdotcom/news/cameron-winklevoss-there-is-no-path-forward-as-long-as-barry-silbert-remains-ceo-of-dcg

tech, china, war: JAN10 Apple is Broadcom's largest customer, accounting for about 20% of Broadcoms revenue, amounting to about $7 billion last year

war, Erdogan: jan10 Turkish media reported that out of 124,000 undocumented refugees, 68,000 of them were Afghans in 2022.

War, energy, markets: jan10 Oil Price Hikes Push Many to Resort to Burning Wood to Stay Warm in Iraqi Kurdistan
https://www.rudaw.net/english/kurdistan/090120231

tech, censorship, war, iran: jan10
Meta Oversight Board Agrees to Allow 'Death to Khamenei' Posts

War, Erdogan, middle east: jan10 Turkey frequently strikes Kurdish military targets in northern Syria. It has also conducted three full-blown invasions of the area since 2016, seizing territory from Kurdish-led forces.

Turkey claimed Sunday that it had killed, injured or arrested several members of Kurdish-led forces in northern Syria, amid its sustained threats of a full-scale operation in the area.

War, media: jan10 **Mexico Says 3,586 Soldiers Involved in Operation to Capture El Chapo's Son Ovidio Guzman**

War, Africa: jan10 Rwanda Says It Can Take No More Refugees From DR Congo

War, history: Chagos Islands dispute: Three years before independence, the UK severed the Chagos Islands from the rest of Mauritius so it could lease Diego Garcia to the US for military use.

Mauritius, a British colony until its independence in 1968, claims the remote

Mauritius, a British colony until its independence in 1968, claims the remote Chagos Islands as its own territory.

Three years before independence, the UK severed the Chagos Islands from the rest of Mauritius so it could lease Diego Garcia to the US for military use.

The British government then forcibly deported 2,000 Chagossians. A newly published book by the barrister and historian Philippe Sands KC, The Last Colony, chronicles how the British shut down the islands' plantations and cut off food supplies, with families told they had no option but to leave by ship by 27 April 1973 or slowly starve.

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War, Erdogan: jan10 NATO Chief: Sweden Has Done What's Needed to Join Alliance

In May, Sweden and neighboring Finland dropped their longstanding policies of military nonalignment and applied to join NATO following Russia's invasion of Ukraine. The move requires the unanimous approval of the alliance members. Turkey has held up the process while pressing the two Nordic countries to crack down on groups it considers to be terrorist organizations and to extradite people suspected of terror-related crimes.

Last month, Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu said Sweden was not even "halfway" through fulfilling the commitments it made to secure Ankara's support. His remarks came after a Swedish court ruled against extraditing a man wanted by Turkey for alleged links to a 2016 failed coup.

Sweden's Prime Minister Ulf Kristersson has said that Sweden has lived up to its commitments and that the decision now "lies with Turkey."

"Legislation banning participation in terrorist organizations is being implemented, and Turkey is known to name individuals it wants extradited. It is also known that Sweden has legislation that is clear and means that it is up to the courts. We also do not extradite Swedish citizens to any country."

There was no immediate reaction from Turkey to the comments by Stoltenberg and Kristersson.

The parliaments of 28 NATO countries have already ratified Sweden and Finland's membership. Turkey and Hungary are the only members that haven't yet given their approval.

War, energy, markets: jan10 norway production 2022 in slightly mre detail; still concise

“Only rarely have we seen so much oil and gas produced on the Norwegian shelf as was the case last year – and only rarely have we seen such significant investment decisions,” the NPD said in its yearly overview of the production and investment activity on the Norwegian Continental Shelf.

In 2022, Norway’s gas production was 9 billion standard cubic meters higher compared with 2021. Gas now accounts for more than half of production from the shelf, the Norwegian authority said.

“Production is extremely high, and it will continue to grow in the years to come. Gas production is projected to remain at around 2022 levels for the next four to five years,” the directorate said.

The consistently high production has been the result of the higher number of producing fields, as several start-ups took place last year, as well as older fields producing longer and producing more than previously expected, according to the NPD.

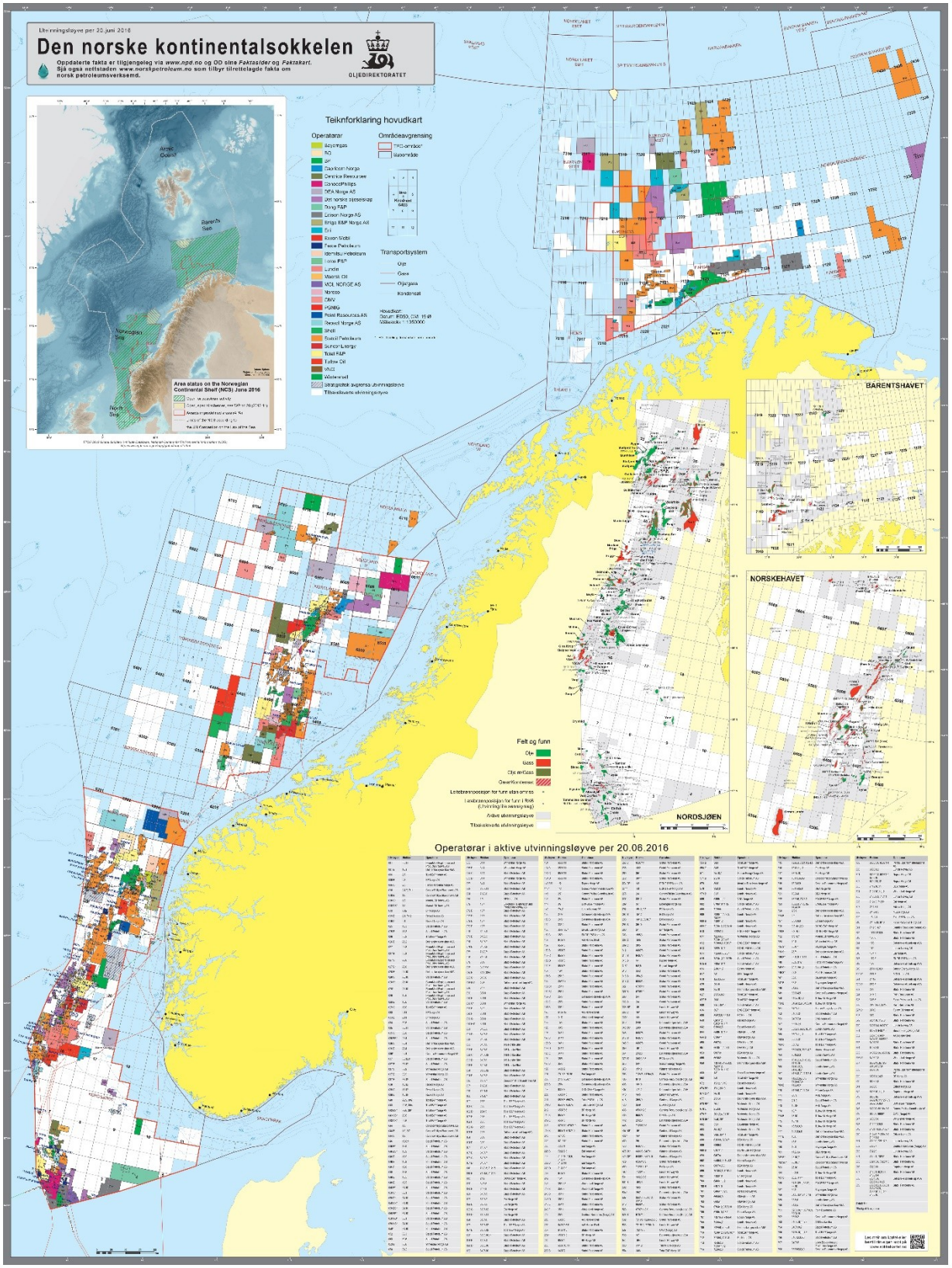
Natural gas production in Norway, which supplies around 25% of the gas consumed in the EU and the UK, was expected to rise by 8 percent in 2022 compared to 2021, government estimates showed at the end of 2022.

In the summer of 2022, Norway’s authorities approved applications from operators to boost production from several operating gas fields, to allow higher gas production as its key partners, the EU and the UK, scrambled for gas supply ahead of the winter.
https://www.npd.no/en/facts/news/general-news/2023/investments-for-the-future-on-the-shelf/

war, journal: jan10 **Barents sea: looks like this location is prime area for a turf war with russia**

War, stats, energy:
The Norwegian continental shelf is the area over which Norway exercises sovereign rights as defined by the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea; The area of the shelf is four times the area of Norway mainland and constitutes about one-third of the Europe continental shelf; It is rich in petroleum and gas

and it is the base of the petroleum economy of Norway.


Utvinningsløyve per 20.juni 2016
Den norske kontinentalsokkelen
Oppdaterte fakta er tilgjengeleg via www.npd.no og OD sine Faktasider og Faktakart.
Sjå også nettstaden www.norskpetroleum.no som tilbyr tilrettelagde fakta om norsk petroleumsverksemd.
OLJEDIREKTORATET
Teiknforklaring hovudkart
Operatørar
Områdeavgrensing
Transportsystem
Area status on the Norwegian Continental Shelf (NCS) June 2016
BARENTSHAVET
NORSKEHAVET
NORDSJØEN
Felt og funn
Operatørar i aktive utvinningsløyve per 20.06.2016

History, Erdogan, war: jan10 **turk greece fight is being staged on cypris, somehting I just learned now: makes sense...**

The island of Cyprus was split after a 1974 Turkish invasion spurred by a brief coup engineered by the military then ruling Greece. Turkey does not recognise Cyprus's Greek government. Attempts over the years to broker peace between the two sides have failed.

Stats, sanctions, energy, Russia: jan10 **mar.13: Sanctions have frozen around $300 bln of Russian reserves, FinMin says**

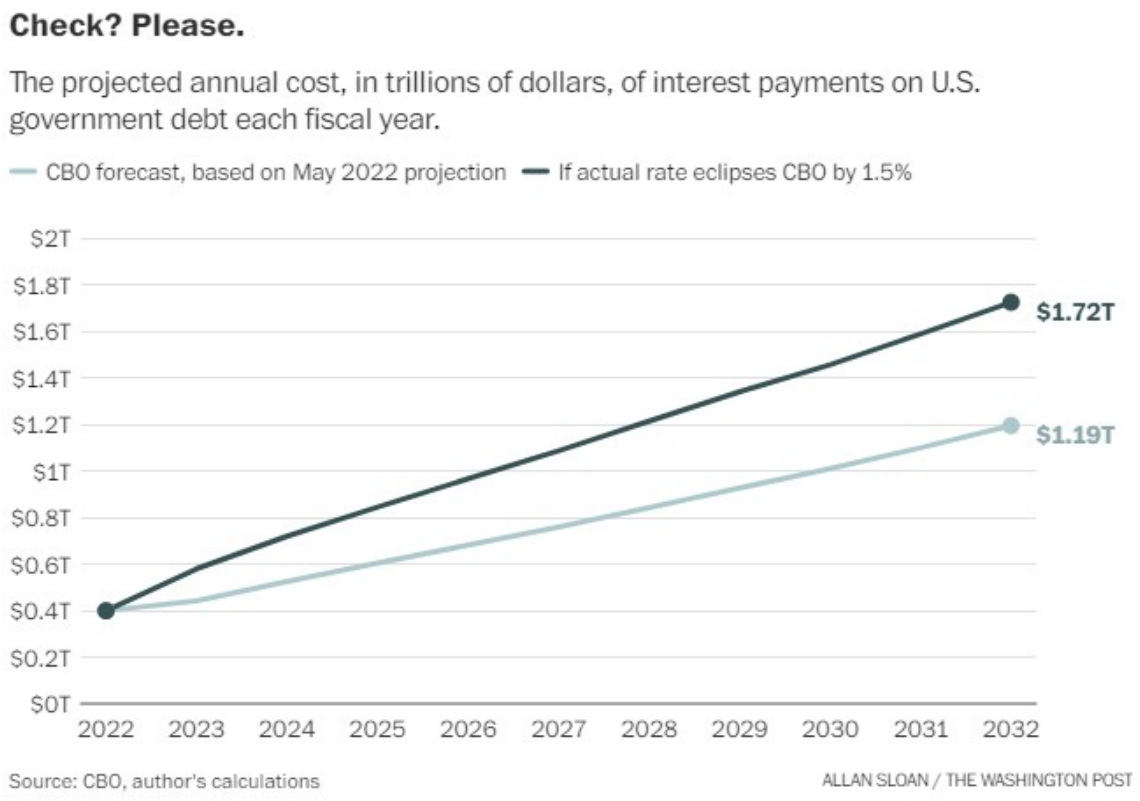
https://www.reuters.com/article/ukraine-crisis-russia-reserves-idUSL5N2VG0BU

war: jan10 **A Russian merchant ship whose owner has allegedly carried weapons for the Kremlin turned off its transponder last month before surreptitiously docking at South Africa’s largest naval base, where it delivered and loaded unidentified cargoes, according to witnesses and a senior U.S. official.**

A senior U.S. official said Washington was concerned by the support the South African armed forces provided to the Lady R, including allowing it to enter and move cargo at a naval base while its automatic identification system was switched off.

Government, inflation, markets: jan10 **gov interest payments: Total interest payments on the government’s debt could come in at nearly $580 billion this fiscal year, up from $399 billion in recently-completed fiscal 2022. That would bring the total interest cost in 2023 to roughly the same level as the federal government’s 2022 budget for Medicaid.**

The publicly held national debt hit 100 percent of GDP and is heading toward the record of 106 percent set in 1946, at the conclusion of the worst war in human history. Within a decade the US faces trillion-dollar deficits for as far as government analysts can budget. By mid-century the Congressional Budget Office expects the debt/GDP ratio to run around 185 percent.



washingtonpostdotcom/business/2022/10/13/debt-interest-rates/

war, stats: jan10 **2022 deadliest year for Palestinians in the West Bank since ...2005 according to UN Mideast Envoy, Tor Wennesland**

Moroccans, like other Arab nations, are following the news with alarm, especially following the swearing-in of Israel's new extremist government of Benjamin Netanyahu and his far-right fascist ilk – the likes of Bezalel Smotrich and Itamar Ben-Gvir.

"Ben-Gvir, a settler in the Israeli-occupied West Bank, has faced charges of hate speech against Arabs and was known to have a portrait in his living room of Israeli-American terrorist Baruch Goldstein, who massacred 29 Palestinian Muslim worshipers and wounded 125 others in Hebron, in the 1994 Cave of the Patriarchs massacre. He removed the portrait after he entered politics.[3] He was also previously convicted of supporting a terrorist group known as Kach, which espoused Kahanism, an extremist religious Zionist ideology.[6]"

His father was born in Jerusalem to Iraqi Jewish immigrants.

Ministry of National Security (Israel)

is the statewide law enforcement agency and oversees the Israel Police, the Israel Prison Service and the Israel National Fire and Rescue Services, Israel Border Police, National Headquarters for the Protection of Children on the Internet, National Authority for Community Safety and The Authority for Witness Protection.

Until 1995 the position was known as Minister of Police.

Israel wants to normalize with the Arabs and tap into their massive markets and economic largesse without having, in return, to relinquish its military Occupation or grant Palestinians basic freedoms. Politically engaged Arab masses understand this well, and are growingly mobilizing against their governments' betrayal of Palestine.

War, china: jan10 **add: Lieutenant General James Bierman, commanding general of the Third Marine Expeditionary Force (III MEF) and of Marine Forces Japan confirms what merkel recently revealed in a a rare interview in december snce her departure as chanceller f germany in an interview with the financial times: Re: improtant breakdown on the ukraine-russia-germany situation: in rare interview since her 16 years chanceller of germany, angela merkel gives her opinion on ukraines minks agreement, surprising commentators by saying that the 2014 minsk agreements were just meant to buy timne for ukraine to arm themselves for an eventually war**

Bierman said that the US and its allies in Asia were emulating the groundwork that had enabled western countries to support Ukraine's resistance to Russia in preparing for scenarios such as a Chinese invasion of Taiwan.

"Why have we achieved the level of success we've achieved in Ukraine? A big part of that has been because after Russian aggression in 2014 and 2015, we earnestly got after preparing for future conflict: training for the Ukrainians, pre-positioning of supplies, identification of sites from which we could operate support, sustain operations," he said.

"We call that setting the theatre. And we are setting the theatre in Japan, in the Philippines, in other locations."

Bierman's unusually frank comparison between the Ukraine war and a potential conflict with China comes as Beijing has dramatically increased the scale and sophistication of its military manoeuvres near Taiwan in recent years. Japan and the Philippines are also intensifying defence co-operation with the US in the face of mounting Chinese assertiveness.

Shinzo Abe, the former prime minister of Japan and a serving member of the House of Representatives, was assassinated on 8 July 2022 while speaking at a political event outside Yamato-Saidaiji Station in Nara City, Nara Prefecture, Japan.[3][4][5] While delivering a campaign speech for a Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) candidate, he was shot from behind at close range by a man with a homemade firearm.[1] Abe was transported by a medical helicopter to Nara Medical University Hospital, where he was pronounced dead.[6]

Censorship, government: jan10 **The Oregon Department of Education has released a document advising schools to keep their gender identities at school secret from**

“Parent and family support is the goal when supporting gender expansive students, but may not be possible in all situations,” according to the document.

“**Schools should refer to their current policies when there may be a safety concern**. To the extent possible, schools should refrain from revealing information about a student’s gender identity, even to parents, caregivers, or other school administrators, without permission from the student.”

Markets, war, energy: jan10 **Black Sea Shipping Rates Jump 20%**

Last year, the Lloyd’s of London market declared the Black Sea and Sea of Azov waters a high risk zone before Russia’s invasion of Ukraine began on Feb. 24, meaning even ships entering areas not close to Ukraine required an additional war policy.
Known as breach cover, the policy has to be renewed every seven days.
Industry sources say breach war policies for hull insurance are up by 20%-25% since the end of last year, which translates into additional costs of tens of thousands of dollars a day for a single voyage, and they are expected to rise further.
“For shipments going in and out of Russia you will find premiums going up. It could easily rise by 50% (from the end of last year) to reflect the cost of capital from not being reinsured,” another marine insurance source said.
The rates are calculated as a percentage of the value of a ship. Ships values vary from around $20 million for older vessels to over $100 to $250 million for ultra modern tankers and liquefied natural gas (LNG) vessels.
The cost of transporting crude oil from non-Russian Black Sea ports is estimated at $80,000 a day for the smaller aframax tankers, slightly firmer from the end of last year.
Average tanker freight costs for aframaxes from Russian ports are quoted at $180,000 to $200,000 a day. The freight rates exclude the additional war risk premiums plus other expenses such as fuel.
Rises in separate cargo war insurance are also set to hit traders.
Around 90% of the war risk market for marine and aviation is insured in Lloyd’s SOLYD.UL and the wider London commercial insurance market, industry sources say.
hellenicshippingnewsdotcom/black-sea-shipping-rates-rise-as-reinsurers-cut-cover/

war : jan10 **sweden reinstitutes conscription….wow**

war, middle east, history: jan9 **Syria’s Arab League membership was suspended in November of 2011 following the start of the Syrian war, and it has been excluded ever since.; syria peace talks being framed with the key word "normalization"**

war: jan9 **US Department of State spokesman, Ned Price: We do not support countries upgrading their relations or expressing support to rehabilitate the brutal dictator Bashar al-Assad. We urge states to carefully consider the Assad regime’s atrocious human rights record**

The spokesman’s remarks are in reference to the first high-level meeting since 2011 between Turkish and Syrian defense officials that took place in Moscow in December 2022.

The tripartite talks were described as “constructive” and tackled various topics of shared concerns, including the refugee crisis and the effort to fight terrorist-designated groups in Syria.

Erdogan, war: jan9 **Erdogan remarks ahead of moscow-syria-turkish meeting, the first of it's kind since 2011:As Russia-Turkey-Syria, we have launched a process through the meeting of our intelligence chiefs and defense ministers in Moscow. Then, God willing, we will bring our foreign ministers together trilaterally. Then, depending on the developments, we will come together as leaders."**

Markets: jan9 **"This Could Get Very Ugly, Very Quickly": In His Latest Dismal Forecast, Mike Wilson Sees Stocks Tumbling Another 22%**

Housing, markets: jan9 **Australia’s Property values record fastest rate of Downturn in History**

Inflation, markets, government, stats: jan9 **Michael A. Gayed, CFA: "Powell will go down in history as having destroyed more wealth than all other Fed Chairs combined.**
twitterdotcom/leadlagreport/status/1612465219917193216?

Sanctions, war, energy: jan9 **German Economic Institute: "The risk of a gas shortage in the 2022/23 winter season is no longer as present as it was in the summer of 2022, and energy prices have also retreated since then. However, they remain at a high level and production disruptions cannot be ruled out,"**
https://www.investing.com/news/economy/around-40-of-german-companies-expect-output-decline-in-2023--iw-institute-2975631

markets, stats, inflation: jan9 Annual food inflation jumped to 13.3% in December, up from 12.4% in November, according to the latest monthly report from trade body the British Retail Consortium

war: jan9 crazy stuff going in brazil right now, historic their saying, former president in hospital for unknown reason

crypto, censorship, stats: jan9 largest shareholder (34.22%) of South Korean cryptocurrency exchange Bithumb, found dead mysteriously in front of his house in the early morning; Mr. Park Mo was found dead after an investigation had been launched against him for embezzlement and stock price manipulation.
Mr. Park Mo, the vice president of Vidente — the largest shareholder of South Korean Cryptocurrency exchange Bithumb — was reportedly found dead in front of his home at 4:00 am local time on the morning of Dec. 30.

Prior to his death, Mr. Mo had been named as a primary suspect in an investigation launched by South Korean prosecutors for his alleged

involvement in the embezzling funds at Bithumb-related companies, as well as manipulating stock prices.

https://cointelegraph.com/news/bithumb-s-largest-shareholder-executive-found-dead-following-allegations-of-embezzlement

crypto, markets, stats: jan9 4 crypto billionaires dead in the span of a month. Just before, and during the FTX collapse, wall street silver, 1:33am, today

Russian billionaire Vyacheslav Taran is the latest crypto entrepreneur to have died under mysterious circumstances after his helicopter crashed in good weather.

According to original reports from the *Monaco Daily News*, both Taran and the helicopter's 35-year-old pilot died after the aircraft crashed around 1pm on November 25, near the resort town of Villefranche-sur-Mer after taking off from Lausanne in Switzerland.

Taran was travelling in a single-engine Eurocopter EC130 (Airbus H130) operated by Monacair. The billionaire's death was subsequently confirmed by the Russian Embassy in Paris on Monday.

Another unidentified passenger was scheduled to join Taran on the flight, but they cancelled at the last minute, according to local news sources.

The Deputy Public Prosecutor of Nice, who visited the scene of the crash said that the fault of an as of yet unidentified third party could not yet be ruled out.

Taran was the co-founder of trading and investment platforms Libertex and Forex Club. His company, Forex Club was stripped of its license in Russia in 2018 for allegedly ripping off investors, according to a report by *Life*, a pro-Russian media outlet.

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Life's official website claimed that Taran, "has many dissatisfied clients and enemies in Russia, who could well get him abroad".

The suspicious deaths of Russian oligarchs

Taran's name joins a growing list of Russian oligarchs with ties to Vladimir Putin who have all died in seemingly suspicious circumstances this year.

Less than two weeks ago, cryptocurrency entrepreneur Tiantian Kullander, the co-founder of Amber Group, who was just 30 years old and widely regarded to be in "good health" died unexpectedly in his sleep from unknown causes. Sudden death during sleep in healthy 30-year-olds is statistically uncommon.

Another wealthy Russian businessman to die in peculiar circumstances was Ivan Pechorin. Pechorin was Putin's top manager for developing Russia's vast Arctic resources. On September 10 his body was discovered after he reportedly fell off the side of a boat in waters close to Russky Island.

Earlier this year, 67-year-old oil magnate Ravil Maganov "fell from a window" at a Moscow hospital. His company Lukoil had criticised the war in Ukraine.

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55-year-old Sergey Protosenya was found dead in Spain. His body was discovered alongside his wife and daughter who were found dead in their beds with axe wounds. Protosenya was the deputy chairman of Novatek, the largest independent natural gas producer in Russia.

Newspaper editor Vladimir Sungorkin, 68, suffered a stroke and suffocated while on his way to lunch. Oil billionaire Alexander Subbotin, 52, was found dead in a shaman's house after he died from a "drug-induced heart attack".

Subbotin allegedly went to the shaman's home "in a state of severe alcoholic and drug intoxication" a day before his death, reported Russian news outlet *TASS*.

Bill Browder, an American-born British financier who was once the largest foreign portfolio investor in Russia, told *Newsweek* that people should automatically "assume the worst" any time they see "a wealthy Russian dying in suspicious circumstances."

"There has been enough empirical evidence of assassinations organised by the Kremlin or business rivals in Russia, to make it likely that these were murders and not suicides and other explanations that have been bandied about by the Russian authorities," Browder added.

Taran's wife pens an open letter

The deceased billionaire's wife, Olga Taran has since released an open letter urging journalists to stop spreading "lies" that suggested her husband was linked to the shady business dealings of Russian elites.

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"The Ukrainian news website UNIAN.net published a story that my husband allegedly was a billionaire and was involved in money laundering for Russian elites and on top of that, they claimed him to be a Russian spy," she wrote.

"I urge all Western journalists who cite UNIAN.net to stop spreading the lies (Will Steward and Rachael Bunyan from Daily Mail, Aliki Kraterou from The Sun). My children have already been bullied because of these accusations and I am concerned for their safety," she added.

Markets, inflation, censorship, stats: jan9 **Used-Car Prices Record "Largest Annualized Decline In Series' History" (chgart basically looks the exact same as m2 money supply--many charts do it seems; this straight up, then straight down pattern)**

War, Russia: jan9 **escalation: Nikolai Patrushev, seen as a likely successor to putin, and secretary of the Security Council of Russia since 2008, the top official defense board for the country, says: "The events in Ukraine aren't a clash between Moscow and Kiev. It's a military confrontation of NATO, first of all the US and Britain, with Russia. Fearing a direct engagement, NATO instructors push Ukrainian men to certain death,"**

"The events in Ukraine aren't a clash between Moscow and Kiev. **It's a military confrontation of NATO, first of all the US and Britain, with Russia**. Fearing a direct engagement, NATO instructors push Ukrainian men to certain death," he said in a fresh interview with state-owned newspaper aif.ru.

"**We are not at war with Ukraine** because we can't have hatred for ordinary Ukrainians by default," he stressed. He then presented Russian and Ukrainian heritage and closely bound up together, according to state media:

"Get this: the Ukrainian language is one of the official languages in Crimea. Ukrainian cultural centers, Ukrainian folk song and dance groups continue to exist in many cities. A considerable number of people in the south of the Far East regard Ukrainian culture as their own, given a large proportion of migrants from the times of Stolypin," he said, referring to Pyotr Stolypin, a prime minister of the Russian Empire in the early 1900s, who oversaw a resettlement policy.

"The sooner the people of Ukraine realize that the West is using them to wage a war on Russia, the more lives will be saved," Patrushev added. "Many have realized that long ago, but they are afraid to say that publicly out of fear of reprisals. It's not a part of the West's plans to save someone's life to the

detriment of its enrichment and other ambitions. Even so, the Americans, the British and other Europeans often create an illusion that they protect civilization from barbarians."

Rome, history, stats: **Cloaca Maxima**

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cloaca_Maxima

rome, history, fall of rome: **Classical antiquity:the period of cultural history between the 8th century BC and the 5th century AD centred on the Mediterranean Sea, comprising the interlocking civilizations of ancient Greece and ancient Rome known as the Greco-Roman world.**

Conventionally, it is taken to begin with the earliest-recorded Epic Greek poetry of Homer (8th–7th-century BC), and continues through the emergence of Christianity (1st century AD) and the fall of the Western Roman Empire (5th-century AD). It ends with the decline of classical culture during late antiquity (250–750), a period overlapping with the Early Middle Ages (600–1000). Such a wide span of history and territory covers many disparate cultures and periods. *Classical antiquity* may also refer to an idealized vision among later people of what was, in Edgar Allan Poe's words, "the glory that was Greece, and the grandeur that was Rome".[3]

This Greco-Roman cultural foundation has been immensely influential on the language, politics, law, educational systems, philosophy, science, warfare, poetry, historiography, ethics, rhetoric, art and architecture of the modern world. Surviving fragments of classical culture led to a revival beginning in the 14th century which later came to be known as the Renaissance, and various neo-classical revivals occurred in the 18th and 19th centuries.

Late antiquity saw the rise of Christianity under Constantine I, finally ousting the Roman imperial cult with the Theodosian decrees of 393. Successive invasions of Germanic tribes finalized the decline of the Western Roman Empire in the 5th century, while the Eastern Roman Empire persisted throughout the Middle Ages, in a state called the Roman Empire by its citizens, and labeled the Byzantine Empire by later historians.

Many writers have attempted to put a specific date on the symbolic "end" of antiquity with the most prominent dates being the deposing of the last Western Roman Emperor in 476,[17][18] the closing of the last Platonic Academy in Athens by the Eastern Roman Emperor Justinian I in 529,[19] and the conquest of much of the Mediterranean by the new Muslim faith from 634 to 718.[20] These Muslim conquests, of Syria (637), Egypt (639), Cyprus (654), North Africa (665), Hispania (718), Southern Gaul (720), Crete

(820), and Sicily (827), Malta (870) (and the sieges of the Eastern Roman capital, First Arab Siege of Constantinople (674–78) and Second Arab Siege of Constantinople (717–18)) severed the economic, cultural, and political links that had traditionally united the classical cultures around the Mediterranean, ending antiquity (see Pirenne Thesis).[20]

The original Roman Senate continued to express decrees into the late 6th century, and the last Eastern Roman emperor to use Latin as the language of his court in Constantinople was emperor Maurice, who reigned until 602. The overthrow of Maurice by his mutinying Danube army under Phocas resulted in the Slavic invasion of the Balkans and the decline of Balkan and Greek urban culture (leading to the flight of Balkan Latin speakers to the mountains, see Origin of the Romanians), and also provoked the Byzantine–Sasanian War of 602–628 in which all the great eastern cities except Constantinople were lost. The resulting turmoil did not end until the Muslim conquests of the 7th century finalized the irreversible loss of all the largest Eastern Roman imperial cities besides the capital itself. The emperor Heraclius in Constantinople, who emerged during this period, conducted his court in Greek, not Latin, though Greek had always been an administrative language of the eastern Roman regions. Eastern-Western links weakened with the ending of the Byzantine Papacy.

The Eastern Roman empire's capital city of Constantinople was left as the only unconquered large urban center of the original Roman empire, as well as being the largest city in Europe. Yet many classical books, sculptures, and technologies survived there along with classical Roman cuisine and scholarly traditions, well into the Middle Ages, when much of it was "rediscovered" by visiting Western crusaders. Indeed, the inhabitants of Constantinople continued to refer to themselves as Romans, as did their eventual conquerors in 1453, the Ottomans. (see Rûm and Romaioi.) The classical scholarship and culture that was still preserved in Constantinople were brought by refugees fleeing its conquest in 1453 and helped to spark the Renaissance (see Greek scholars in the Renaissance).

Ultimately, it was a slow, complex, and graduated change in the socio-economic structure in European history that led to the changeover between Classical antiquity and Medieval society and no specific date can truly exemplify that.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Classical_antiquity

rome, history, stats: **add this to roman engineering, forgot**

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pliny_the_Elder

tech, rome, stats: jan9 **roman concrete was self-healing, according to paper by MIT professor of civil and environmental engineering Admir Masic, former doctoral student Linda Seymour ’14, PhD ’21, and four others.**

The authors examined the chemical composition and nanostructure of the ancient Roman concrete samples and discovered that the lime clast gave concrete the ability to self-heal. Whenever a crack is formed, the white chunks react with water, causing the recrystallization of calcium carbonate and, eventually, the closing of the crack.

https://interestingengineering.com/innovation/19-greatest-inventions-of-the-roman-empire-that-helped-shape-the-modern-world

betyter link here
https://news.mit.edu/2023/roman-concrete-durability-lime-casts-0106

history, stats, rome: jan9 **roman engineering was actually better portrayed by their sanitation ystems, something that would be lost to civilization for**

Romans were very knowledgeable when it came to civil engineering. But their talent wasn't limited to building large structures like the Colesseum or roadways. While it may seem less visually impressive, their engineering excellence is highlighted by their sewage and sanitary plumbing systems.

These consisted of a mixture of masonry, early concrete, and in some circumstances, lead piping.

The drainage pipes were connected and flushed regularly, with the water running off streams. Romans also used covered gutter systems and public bathrooms, ensuring the streets were clear of human waste. This improved the aesthetics of large population centers and drastically improved public health.

With the fall of the Western Roman Empire, the ability to build and maintain these structures was rapidly lost, with many post-Roman nations in Europe regressing hundreds of years in terms of sanitation. They would only develop similar systems over a thousand years later.

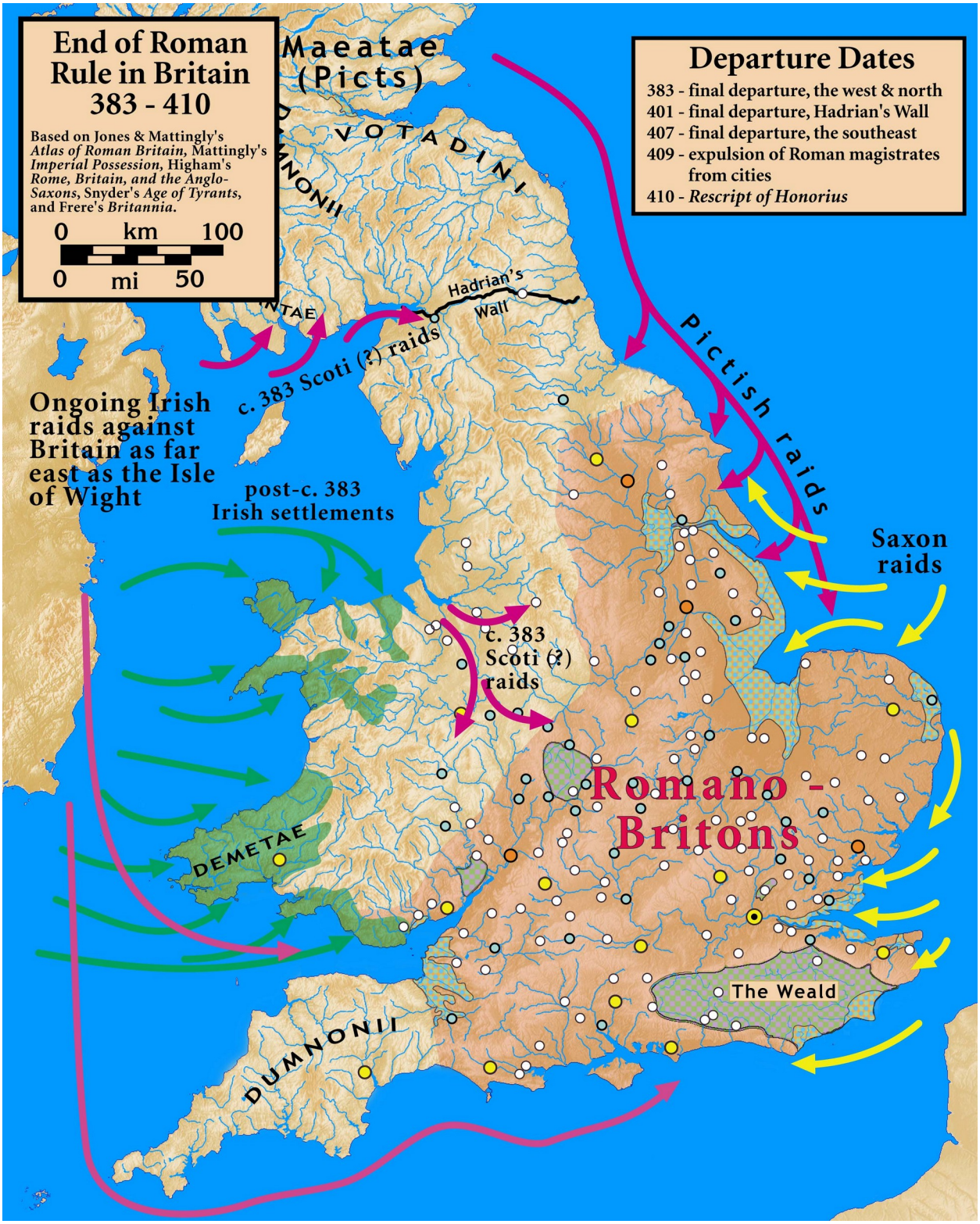
Some systems, like the *Cloaca Maxima* in Rome, would continue to be used up to the modern day.

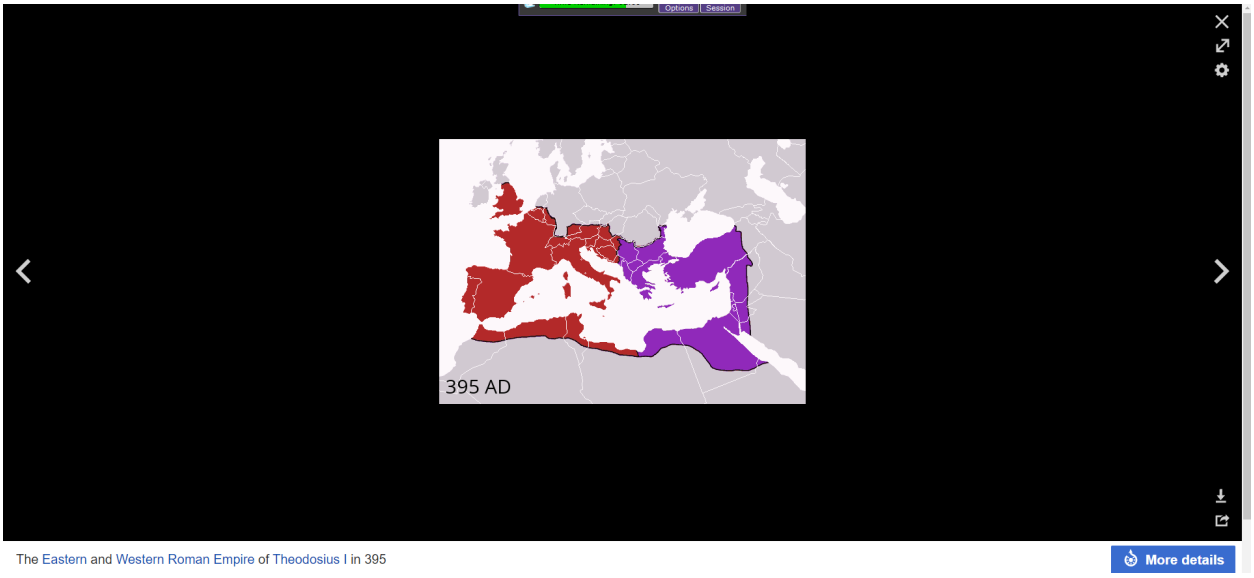
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/De_aquaeductu

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ancient_Roman_engineering

fall of rome, history, markets, Germany, holy roman empire: **Roman Dolaucothi Gold Mines in Wales: ancient Roman surface and underground mines located in the valley of the River Cothi, near Pumsaint, Carmarthenshire, Wales, said be important for showing advanced Roman technology.**

They were closely involved in exploiting gold resources such as those at Dolaucothi in south west Wales and in north-west Spain, a country where gold mining developed on a very large scale in the early part of the first century AD, such as at Las Medulas.


End of Roman Rule in Britain 383 - 410
Based on Jones & Mattingly's *Atlas of Roman Britain*, Mattingly's *Imperial Possession*, Higham's *Rome, Britain, and the Anglo-Saxons*, Snyder's *Age of Tyrants*, and Frere's *Britannia*.
0 km 100
0 mi 50
Maeatae (Picts)
VOTADINI
DUMNONII
NTAE
Hadrian's Wall
c. 383 Scoti (?) raids
Ongoing Irish raids against Britain as far east as the Isle of Wight
post-c. 383 Irish settlements
Pictish raids
Saxon raids
c. 383 Scoti (?) raids
Romano - Britons
DEMETAE
The Weald
DUMNONII
Departure Dates
383 - final departure, the west & north
401 - final departure, Hadrian's Wall
407 - final departure, the southeast
409 - expulsion of Roman magistrates from cities
410 - *Rescript of Honorius*



80 of the 100 most common words in English are Germanic in origin.
https://www.fluentu.com/blog/german/similarities-between-german-and-english/

the Anglo-Saxon period denotes the period in Britain between about 450 and 1066, after their initial settlement and up until the Norman Conquest.[2] The early Anglo-Saxon period includes the creation of an English nation, with many of the aspects that survive today, including regional government of shires and hundreds. During this period, Christianity was established and there was a flowering of literature and language. Charters and law were also established.[3] The term *Anglo-Saxon* is popularly used for the language that was spoken and written by the Anglo-Saxons in England and southeastern Scotland from at least the mid-5th century until the mid-12th century. In scholarly use, it is more commonly called Old English.[4]

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anglo-Saxons

The **Danes** were a North Germanic tribe inhabiting southern Scandinavia, including the area now comprising Denmark proper, Yorkshire, and the Scanian provinces of modern-day southern Sweden, during the Nordic Iron Age and the Viking Age. They founded what became the Kingdom of Denmark. The name of their realm is believed to mean "Danish March", viz. "the march of the Danes", in Old Norse, referring to their southern border zone between the Eider and Schlei rivers, known as the Danevirke.

The Danes first appear in written history in the 6th century with references in Jordanes' *Getica* (551 AD), by Procopius, and by Gregory of Tours. They spoke Old Norse (*dǫnsk tunga*), which the Danes shared with the people in Norway and Sweden and later in Iceland and the Faroe Islands.[1] In his description of Scandza, Jordanes says

that the **Dani** were of the same stock as the *Suetidi* ("Swedes") and expelled the Heruli and took their lands.

In the Nordic Iron Age, the Danes were based in present-day Denmark, the southern part of present-day Sweden, including Scania, and in Schleswig, now Northern Germany.

From around 800 AD, the Danes began a long era of well-organised raids across the coasts and rivers of Europe. Some of the raids were followed by a gradual succession of Danish settlers and during this epoch, large areas outside Scandinavia were settled by the Danes, including the Danelaw in England and countryside and newly established towns in Ireland, the Netherlands and northern France. In the early 11th century, King Cnut the Great (died 1035) ruled the extensive North Sea Empire for nearly 20 years, consisting of Denmark, England, Norway, southern Sweden and parts of northern Germany.[3]

During the 10th century the royal seat of the Danes was moved from Lejre to Jelling in central Jutland, marking the foundation and consolidation of the Kingdom of Denmark.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Danes_(Germanic_tribe)
Danes (Danish: *danskere*, pronounced ['tænskɐ]) are a North Germanic ethnic group and nationality native to Denmark[27][28][29][30][31][32] and a modern nation identified with the country of Denmark.

Under the 14th century king Olaf II, Denmark acquired control of the Kingdom of Norway, which included the territories of Norway, Iceland and the Faroese Islands. Olaf's mother, Margrethe I, united Norway, Sweden and Denmark into the Kalmar Union.[37]

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Danes

"Old Saxony" is the original homeland of the Saxons. It corresponds roughly to the modern German states of Lower Saxony, eastern part of modern North Rhine-Westphalia state (Westphalia), Nordalbingia (Holstein, southern part of Schleswig-Holstein) and western Saxony-Anhalt (Eastphalia), which all lie in northwestern Germany

The Migration Period

350 to 550 AD was a migration period in Europe. In the seventh century the Frisian Empire extended from the coastal areas of north Belgium to southern Denmark. They controlled much of the North Sea trade routes from Friesland to England, Frankia, Scandinavia and northwestern Russia. A ‘Magna Frisia’ (Great-Friesland) consisted of a long narrow strip of land along the North Sea, from the Swin River in Belgium to the Weser River in Germany. The Saxons were their neighbors to the north and east, the Franks were in the south and the Anglo-Saxons in the west across the North Sea. Since the conversion to

Christianity of the Franks under Clovis the Frisians had become their major enemy. About 450 AD Angles, Saxons, Jutes and Frisians crossed the North Sea and established the Anglo-Saxon empire known as England. The Frisians colonized what became the county of Kent in southeast England.

https://freepages.rootsweb.com/~emty/family/Events_Before_King_Egbert-Beginning_in_Europe.html

The **Roman conquest of Britain** was the conquest of the island of Britain by occupying Roman forces. It began in earnest in AD 43 under Emperor Claudius, and was largely completed in the southern half of Britain by 87 when the Stanegate was established. Conquest of the far north and Scotland took longer with fluctuating success.

Even after Hadrian's Wall was established as the border, tribes in Scotland and northern England repeatedly rebelled against Roman rule and forts continued to be maintained across northern Britain to protect against these attacks.[14]

In common with other regions on the edge of the empire, Britain had enjoyed diplomatic and trading links with the Romans in the century since Julius Caesar's expeditions in 55 and 54 BC, and Roman economic and cultural influence was a significant part of the British late pre-Roman Iron Age, especially in the south.

Between 55 BC and the 40s AD, the *status quo* of tribute, hostages, and client states without direct military occupation, begun by Caesar's invasions of Britain, largely remained intact. Augustus prepared invasions in 34 BC, 27 BC and 25 BC

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Roman_conquest_of_Britain

The principal enemies of Roman Britain were the Picts from the Scottish Highlands, Frisians, Angles, and Saxons. To deal with these groups, the Romans appointed a special Count of Saxon Shores, which included most of the east coast of England. For many years these “Saxons” were beaten off, but when the Roman empire itself was invaded by barbarians, Roman troops in Britain were called home and left the island at the mercy of the invaders. At first the Britons fought the Saxons, the Gaels and Picts, but Britain soon broke up into many small independent kingdoms.
https://freepages.rootsweb.com/~emty/family/Events_Before_King_Egbert-Beginning_in_Europe.html

The early Anglo-Saxon period covers the history of medieval Britain that starts from the end of Roman rule. It is a period widely known in European history as the Migration Period, also the *Völkerwanderung*[23] ("migration of peoples" in German). This was a

period of intensified human migration in Europe from about 375 to 800.[24][b] The migrants were Germanic tribes such as the Goths, Vandals, Angles, Saxons, Lombards, Suebi, Frisii, and Franks; they were later pushed westwards by the Huns, Avars, Slavs, Bulgars, and Alans.[25] The migrants to Britain might also have included the Huns and Rugini.[26]:123–124

Until AD 400, Roman Britain, the province of *Britannia*, was an integral, flourishing part of the Western Roman Empire, occasionally disturbed by internal rebellions or barbarian attacks, which were subdued or repelled by the large contingent of imperial troops stationed in the province. By 410, however, the imperial forces had been withdrawn to deal with crises in other parts of the empire, and the Romano-Britons were left to fend for themselves in what is called the post-Roman or "sub-Roman" period of the 5th century.[27]

Härke and Michael Wood estimate that the British population in the area that eventually became Anglo-Saxon England was around one million by the start of the fifth century;[36][42] however, what happened to the Britons has been debated.
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anglo-Saxons

Roman Britain

Roman Britain was the period in classical antiquity when large parts of the island of Great Britain were under occupation by the Roman Empire. The occupation lasted from AD 43 to AD 410.[1][2] During that time, the territory conquered was raised to the status of a Roman province.

Julius Caesar invaded Britain in 55 and 54 BC as part of his Gallic Wars.[3] According to Caesar, the Britons had been overrun or culturally assimilated by Belgic tribes during the British Iron Age and had been aiding Caesar's enemies. The Belgae were the only Celtic tribe to cross the sea into Britain, for all other Celtic tribes this land was unknown. [4] He received tribute, installed the friendly king Mandubracius over the Trinovantes, and returned to Gaul. Planned invasions under Augustus were called off in 34, 27, and 25 BC. In 40 AD, Caligula assembled 200,000 men at the Channel on the continent, only to have them gather seashells (*musculi*) according to Suetonius, perhaps as a symbolic gesture to proclaim Caligula's victory over the sea.[5] Three years later, Claudius directed four legions to invade Britain and restore the exiled king Verica over the Atrebates.[6] The Romans defeated the Catuvellauni, and then organized their conquests as the Province of Britain. By 47 AD, the Romans held the lands southeast of the Fosse Way. Control over Wales was delayed by reverses and the effects of Boudica's uprising, but the Romans expanded steadily northward.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Roman_Britain

https://www.bbc.co.uk/history/ancient/romans/questions_01.shtml

media, censorship: jan9 Middle school art teacher arrested after overdosing on fentanyl in front of students at New Jersey school

https://www.cbsnews.com/news/art-teacher-frank-thompson-arrested-fentanyl-overdose-students-westfield-new-jersey/

markets, housing, government: jan9 SNB: Payment to government skipped only second time in 116 years

Unlike other central banks, the SNB is a publicly traded joint-stock company, with about half the shares held by public-sector institutions and the rest by companies and private individuals. Earnings from the SNB’s operations do not influence monetary policy. Final results are due on March 6.

Swiss central bank posts $143 billion loss, the largest in its 116-year history (yeah, because they turned themselves into a hendge fund while using credit suisse (swiss credit, in english) as their trading department, ie, inventing money and loaning it to credit suisse (swwiss credit) for them to then turn into highly leveraged etf's (in a rough, probably slightly wrong, nutshell))

https://www.cnbc.com/2023/01/09/swiss-national-bank-posts-record-143-billion-loss.html

stats, war, middle east, islam, censorship: **Saudi blogger, Raif al-Badawi hit with 50 lashes a week for twenty weeks in 2014**

Rights activists say Saudi authorities are using Badawi’s case as a warning to others who think to criticise the kingdom’s powerful religious establishment from which the ruling family partly derives its authority.

London-based Amnesty International said he would receive 50 lashes once a week for 20 weeks. The US, a close ally of Saudi Arabia, has called on authorities to cancel the punishment.

Despite international pleas for his release, Badawi, a father of three, was brought from prison by bus to the public square on Friday and flogged on the back in front of a crowd that had just finished midday prayers at a nearby mosque. His face was visible and, throughout the flogging, he clenched his eyes and remained silent, said the witness.

The witness, who also has close knowledge of the case, said the lashing lasted about 15 minutes.

Badawi has been held since mid-2012 after he founded the Free Saudi Liberals blog. He used it to criticise the kingdom's influential clerics who follow a strict, conservative interpretation of Islam known as Wahhabism, which originated in Saudi Arabia.

He was originally sentenced in 2013 to seven years in prison and 600 lashes in relation to the charges, but after an appeal the judge stiffened the punishment. Following his arrest, his wife and children left the kingdom for Canada.

Rights groups argue that the case against Badawi is part of a wider crackdown on freedom of speech and dissent in Saudi Arabia since the 2011 Arab Spring uprisings. Criticism of clerics is seen as a red line because of their prestige in the kingdom, as well as their influential role in supporting government policies.

According to Amnesty the charges against Badawi mention his failure to remove articles by other people on his website. He was also accused in court of ridiculing Saudi Arabia's morality police.

In a statement after the flogging Amnesty called it a "vicious act of cruelty" and said Badawi's "only 'crime' was to exercise his right to freedom of expression by setting up a website for public discussion".

First detained on apostasy charges in 2008, Badawi was released after a day of questioning.[2] He was prevented from leaving Saudi Arabia, and both his and his wife's bank accounts were frozen in 2009.[13] The family of Badawi's wife subsequently filed a court action to forcibly divorce the couple on grounds of Badawi's alleged apostasy. On 17 June 2012, he was arrested on a charge of "insulting Islam through electronic channels",[2] and the following December he was also cited for apostasy, a conviction which carries an automatic death sentence.[14][15] However, Badawi was confirmed to be a Muslim after reciting the Shahada in court, and also stated that people should have the right to choose their faith. Human Rights Watch stated that Badawi's website had hosted material criticizing "senior religious figures".[15] Badawi had also suggested that Imam Muhammad ibn Saud Islamic University had become "a den for terrorists."[16]

Following the 2012 arrest, Amnesty International designated Badawi a prisoner of conscience, "detained solely for peacefully exercising his right to freedom of expression", and said: "Even in Saudi Arabia where state repression is rife, it is beyond the pale to seek the death penalty for an activist whose only 'crime' was to enable social debate online".[17] Calling for the government to drop the charges, Human Rights Watch stated: "The charges against him, based solely to Badawi's involvement in setting up a website for peaceful discussion about religion and religious figures, violate his right to freedom of expression".[2] Moroccan human rights activist Kacem El Ghazzali also criticized Saudi Arabia authority.

Charged with "setting up a website that undermines general security", "ridiculing Islamic religious figures", and "going beyond the realm of obedience", Badawi appeared

before a district court in Jeddah on 17 December 2012.[1] The judge referred the charge of apostasy to a higher court, saying he "could not give a verdict in a case of apostasy."[18] On 22 December, the General Court in Jeddah found merits in the apostasy charges.[1] And then it referred the case back to the lower court, as the latter is said to require the wisdom of higher court to try apostasy.[19]

On 30 July 2013, Saudi media reported that Badawi had been sentenced to seven years in prison and 600 lashes for founding an Internet forum that "violates Islamic values and propagates liberal thought". The court also ordered the website closed.[20]

Sentence increased[edit]

On 26 December 2013, Badawi's wife Ensaf Haidar told CNN a judge had ruled that her husband should go before a high court for the apostasy charge which would result in a death penalty if convicted.[21] On 7 May 2014, Badawi's sentence was increased to 1000 lashes, 10 years in prison, and a fine of SRIs 1,000,000 (equal to about US$267,000 at the time), for "insulting Islam".[22][23] In mid-January 2015, the case was passed to the Saudi Supreme Court for review.[24][25][26] On 1 March 2015, Badawi's wife told reporters that judges in Saudi Arabia's criminal court wanted to retry him for apostasy, and that if found guilty he would be sentenced to death.[27][28]

History, Africa, stats: **Benin city, nigeria: The city was the most important settlement of the Edo Kingdom of Benin, which flourished during the 13th to the 19th century. It held important trade relations with Portugal during the last centuries before being captured, sacked and burnt in 1897 by a British punitive expedition**

A Portuguese captain described the city in 1691:"Great Benin, where the king resides, is larger than Lisbon; all the streets run straight and as far as the eye can see. The houses are large, especially that of the king, which is richly decorated and has fine columns. The city is wealthy and industrious. It is so well governed that theft is unknown and the people live in such security that they have no doors to their houses". This was at a time when theft and murder were rife in London.[14][15]

https://www.persee.fr/doc/cea_0008-0055_1965_num_5_18_3035

war, Africa: jan9 **Relations between Mali and its West African neighbours have been strained since Goita led a coup against elected President Ibrahim Boubacar Keita in August 2020**

middle east, stats, media, war: jan9 **Taliban Insists Ban on Women From Afghan Schools and Universities Is 'Not Permanent'**

war, sanctions, energy, Russia, markets: jan9 **Norway Replaces Russia as Germany's Top Gas Supplier**

Norway became Germany’s single-largest natural gas supplier in 2022, overtaking Russia, as total German gas imports dropped by 12.3% compared to 2021, the German Federal Network Agency, Bundesnetzagentur, said on Friday.
Norway provided 33% of the gas Germany imported last year, followed by Russia, whose share fell to 22% for last year, compared to a 52% share in 2021, said the German regulator.

Last year, Russia started gradually cutting gas supply via the Nord Stream pipeline to Germany in June until shutting down the pipeline in early September, claiming an inability to repair gas turbines for the pumping stations due to Western sanctions.

The lack of gas deliveries from Russia was partly compensated for by additional imports, including from the Netherlands, Belgium, and Norway, the German network agency said today.

Europe’s biggest economy also saved a lot of gas in 2022, partly due to household saving and to industrial production curtailments due to soaring gas prices.

According to Bundesnetzagentur, Germany’s natural gas consumption dropped by 14% in 2022 compared to the average consumption for the past four years. Industrial demand fell by 15% compared to the average for the past four years. Between October and December, industrial gas consumption fell by 23%, and consumption by private consumers and businesses was 21% below the previous years.

As supply from Russia fell and then stopped in early September, Germany started looking at importing LNG and began construction of regasification terminals to be able to welcome cargoes. The first such terminal, a floating LNG import terminal, officially opened at the end of 2022 at Wilhelmshaven on Germany’s North Sea coast.
Earlier this week, Germany welcomed the first tanker carrying LNG at the newly opened LNG import terminal at Wilhelmshaven, with the cargo arriving from the Calcasieu Pass export facility in the United States.

By Charles Kennedy for Oilprice.
m

Stats, history, Russia: jan9 **Russian society has a strong undercurrent of mysticism, with as much as a fifth of the country said to have visited a psychic.**

Yevgeny Alexandrov, the chairman of the Russian Academy of Sciences' commission on pseudoscience, has long criticized the rise of these beliefs in the nation, and the commission was formed to deal with that.

taskandpurposedotcom/news/pentagon-russia-psychic-weapons/

censorship: jan9 **nsa spying**

Surveillance operations by the NSA greatly expanded after the 9/11 attacks in 2001, and the phone calls of hundreds of millions of Americans have been tracked by the government since then, according to the American Civil Liberties Union.

In 2013, The Guardian first reported that the NSA was collecting the telephone records of tens of millions of Americans. It was later revealed that the source of the information was NSA whistleblower Edward Snowden.

The report was followed by further reports that the NSA was tapping directly into the servers of nine internet firms, including Facebook, Google, Microsoft and Yahoo, to track online communication in a programme known as Prism.

Up until that point, intelligence officials publicly stated that the NSA never knowingly collected information on Americans. After the

programme's exposure, American officials argued that the spying had played a crucial role in fighting domestic extremism.

War, sanctions: jan9 Venezuelan embassy run by opposition in US closes after Guaido ouster

War, stats, Africa: jan9 US airstrikes in Somalia rose by 30% in 2022, military times

According to data compiled by the Long War Journal, a project of the hawkish Foundation for the Defense of Democracies think tank, US Africa Command launched at least 15 airstrikes in Somalia in 2022, up from 11 airstrikes the previous year.

US airstrikes in Somalia initially dropped under President Biden, with many of the 2021 strikes being launched in January, during the final days of the Trump administration. According to the Long War Journal, AFRICOM launched 45 airstrikes in 2020 and 59 in 2019, which was a record high for US operations in Somalia.

But in 2022, Biden ordered the deployment of up to 500 troops in Somalia and stepped up airstrikes as the US-backed Mogadishu-based government began an offensive against al-Shabaab. There was heavy fighting on the ground during the final months of 2022, when many US airstrikes took place.

War, stats: jan9 **a sign of the times: antiwar posts message on top of page about ww111 and congress approving 112 billion in funding so far, not even one year into the conflict**
https://perma.cc/PLF5-U6V9

Russia, war: jan9 Russian Military Says "Retaliation" Strike Killed Over 600 Ukrainian Soldiers, ukraine denies casualty count

The Russian military says it has conducted a major strike on Ukrainian forces in retaliation for the New Year attack on a Russian barracks in Makiivka, Donetsk which marked one of the single deadliest days for Russian forces, and which set off a firestorm of criticism against the top chain of command.

Russia’s Defense Ministry (MoD) said Sunday that it **eliminated over 600 Ukrainian troops in a "retaliation operation"** in direct response to the "criminal attack" of a week ago. The MoD identified that the operation was conducted against the Ukrainian-held city of Kramatorsk in the Donbass. Photos are emerging from the site, but Ukrainian media is denying Moscow's claims of hundreds killed.

*The Ukrainian government, as well as a handful of Western journalists on the ground and pro-Ukraine media outlets, are **disputing that there were any large-scale casualties from strikes on Kramatorsk**...*

Last week's Makiivka barracks attack may have been Russia's **single biggest loss of the war** and was reportedly carried out by the Ukrainians using **US-supplied HIMARS missile systems**.

Markets: jan9 Morgan Stanley: After A Chaotic 2022, The Rest Of The World Will Outperform US Stocks

Censorship: jan9 AGs Slam White House Over Multiple Examples Of Big Tech Collusion To Censor Dissent

Censorship, islam: **According to an email so-signed by Hamline president Fayneese S. Miller, respect for Muslim students "should have superseded academic freedom."**

In response to the firing, **an Islamic art historian wrote an essay defending López Prater** and demanding that the university's board investigate the matter. An associated petition has received over 2,800 signatures.

"I’m like, ‘This can’t be real,’" she said. "As a Muslim and a Black person, I don’t feel like I belong, and I don’t think I’ll ever belong in a community where they don’t value me as a member, and they don’t show the same respect that I show them."

The image shown by López Prater is contained in one of the earliest Islamic illustrated histories of the world, "A Compendium of Chronicles," written by Rashid-al-Din during the 14th century. **It's shown regularly in art history classes**, and depicts a crowned Angel Gabriel pointing at the Prophet Muhammad and delivering the first Quaranic revelation.

According to Christine Gruber, professor of Islamic Art at the University of Michigan who wrote the essay defending López Prater, the image is a "masterpiece of Persian manuscript painting."

[S]imilar paintings have been on display at places like the Metropolitan Museum of Art. And a sculpture of the prophet is at the Supreme Court.

Dr. Gruber said that showing Islamic art and depictions of the Prophet Muhammad have become more common in academia, because of a push to "decolonize the canon" — that is, expand curriculum beyond a Western model. - NYT

China, vaccine, health, war: China reopens borders to tourists after three years of Covid closure jan9

China has reopened its borders to international visitors for the first time since it imposed travel restrictions in March 2020.
Incoming travellers will no longer need to quarantine - marking a significant change in the country's Covid policy as it battles a surge in cases.

They will still require proof of a negative PCR test taken within 48 hours of travelling.
The move has been welcomed by many eager to reunite with family.

Iran, war, middles east, stats: jan9 **How General Soleimani Kick-Started The Multipolar World**

The term ***Axis of Resistance*** (Persian: محور مقاومت, romanized: *mehvar–e moqâvemat*, Arabic: محور المقاومة, romanized: *miḥwar al-muqāwamah*) refers to an anti-Western, anti-Israeli and anti-Saudi political and informal military alliance[2] between Iran, Palestine, the Syrian Government and the Lebanese militant group Hezbollah.[3][4][5] Pro-Syrian government militias, Iraqi Shia militias that are part of the Iraqi Government-sanctioned Popular Mobilization Forces and the Yemeni Houthi movement (officially: "Ansar Allah") are also considered part of the alliance.

Despite the alliance's differing ideologies, such as secular Ba'athism and Shia Islamism, they are unified by their goal of opposing the activities of pro-Western parties, Israel, Gulf states and Sunni Islamists in the region.[6] Russia and China has also been considered by Iran as part of the alliance, due to their anti-Western political stance and mostly positive relations with Iran and Syria.[7]

Everyone not only along the Axis of Resistance – Tehran, Baghdad, Damascus, Hezbollah – but across the Global South had been aware of how Gen. Soleimani led the fight against Daesh in Iraq from 2014 to 2015, and how he had been instrumental in retaking Tikrit in 2015.

This was his real role – a true warrior of the war *on* terror, not the war *of* terror. For the Empire, to admit his aura glowed even across – vassalized - lands of Sunni Islam was anathema.

It was up to then-Iraqi Prime MinisterAdil Abdul-Mahdi, in front of Parliament in Baghdad, to offer the definitive context: Gen. Soleimani, on a diplomatic mission, had boarded a regular Cham Wings Airbus A320 flight from Damascus to Baghdad. He was involved in complex negotiations between Tehran and Riyadh, with the Iraqi Prime Minister as a mediator, and all that at the request of President Trump.

So the imperial machine - following trademark, decades-long mockery of international law - assassinated a de-facto diplomatic envoy.

The King is now Naked

But then everything went downhill.

Tehran’s direct response to Gen.Soleimani’s assassination, in fact quite restrained considering the circumstances, was carefully measured to not unleash unrestrained imperial “deterrence”.

It took the form of a series of precision missile strikes on the American-controlled Ain al-Assad air base in Iraq. The Pentagon, crucially, received an advance warning.

And it was precisely that measured response that turned out to be the game-changer.

Tehran's message made it graphically clear – for the whole Global South to see - that the days of imperial impunity were over.

Any exceptionalist with a working brain would not fail to get the message: we can hit your assets anywhere in the Persian Gulf - and beyond, at the time of our choosing.

So this was the first instance in which Gen Soleimani, even after leaving his mortal coil, contributed to the birth of the multipolar world.

Those precision missile strikes on the Ain al-Assad base told the story of a mid-ranked power, enfeebled by decades of sanctions, and facing a massive economic/financial crisis, responding to a unilateral attack by targeting imperial assets that are part of the sprawling 800-plus Empire of Bases.

Historically, that was a global first –unheard of since the end of WWII.

Iran is now solidified as one of the key nodes of the New Silk Roads in Southwest Asia. The Iran-China strategic partnership, boosted by Tehran's accession to the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO)in 2002, is as strong geoeconomically and geopolitically as the interlocking partnerships with two other BRICS members, Russia and India. In 2023, Iran is set to become a member of BRICS+.

In parallel, the Iran/Russia/China triad will be deeply involved in the reconstruction of Syria – complete with BRI projects ranging from the Iran-Iraq-Syria-Eastern Mediterranean railway to, in the near future, the Iran-Iraq-Syria gas pipeline, arguably the key factor that provoked the American proxy war against Damascus.

Censorship, Africa: jan9 **Watch: Six Journalists Arrested For Releasing Video Showing South Sudan President Wetting Himself**

The 71-year-old had been rumored to be in ill health for months, **but during a photo-op in December, Kiir was shown standing during the nation's national anthem and wetting himself in a most embarrassing way.**

Six staffers for the national broadcasting company in South Sudan were arrested by the security service. There were immediate complaints from the trade union

representing the staffers that the law, which gives the government the power to hold someone for 24 hours before taking them before a judge, is being violated.

The staffers are being charged with having knowledge of the unauthorized release of “certain footage.”

“If there is a prima facie case of professional misconduct or offense then let authorities expedite an administrative or legal process to address the issue in a fair, transparent [*sic*] and in accordance with the law,” union chair Oyet Patrick Charles said.

The Associated Press reports that ***“The presidential election was recently postponed again, this time to late 2024, amid the slow implementation of a 2018 peace deal ending a five-year civil war.”***

There hasn’t been a presidential election in South Sudan since the independence, and Kiir claimed he did not want “to rush you into an election that will take us back to war,” he said.

The national security services in South Sudan are making a habit of arresting people and holding them indefinitely.

Reuters:

Muthoki Mumo, CPJ’s sub-Saharan Africa representative, said the arrests match a “pattern of security personnel resorting to arbitrary detention whenever officials deem coverage unfavourable.”

“Authorities should unconditionally release these six SSBC employees and ensure that they can work without further intimidation or threat of arrest,” Mumo said.

So South Sudan’s agony will continue with a president who is at the very least incontinent and almost certainly losing the ability to lead his country.

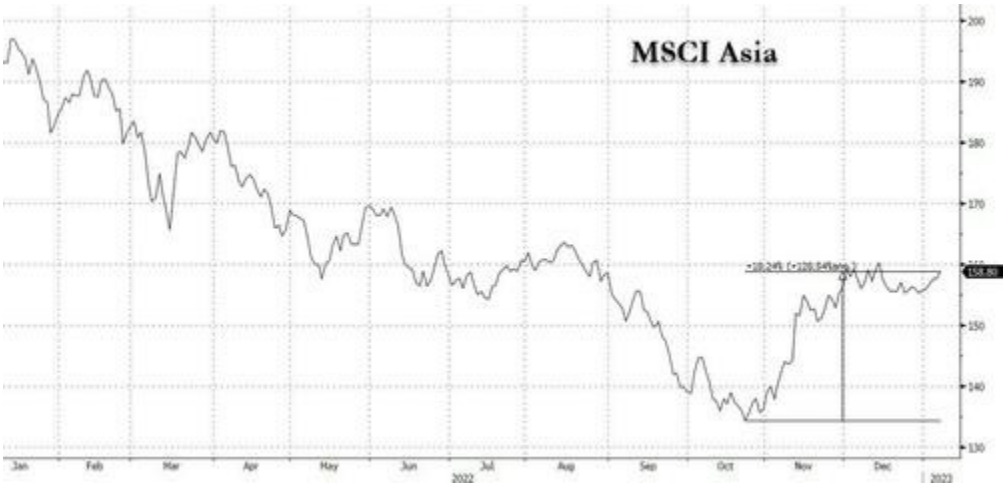
Inflation, markets: jan9 **Goldman Sachs' Epic Hiring Spree Ends With Biggest Round Of Job Cuts Ever**

War, Erdogan: jan9 **Swedish PM Kristersson said they have fulfilled commitments made to Turkey at the Madrid summit but noted that Turkey is demanding concessions that Stockholm cannot give to approve its application to join NATO, according to FT.**

War, markets, energy, sanctions: jan9 **MSCI asia enters bull market, surging 20% starting in october; russia's attack not working due to mild weather, increzased supply, with gas reserves nearly full; brazilian former president, who is said to have been the first national leader censored by twitter in history for saying coronavirus was a "little-flu" in the early days of the pandemic, has an irate minorty of people refusing to sucede victory or something, bunch of his supporters storm capital building one week after new brazilian president elected**

- Russian President Vladimir Putin’s plans to squeeze Europe by weaponizing energy look to be fizzling at least for now. Mild weather, a wider array of suppliers and efforts to reduce demand are helping, with gas reserves still nearly full and prices tumbling to pre- war levels

Earlier in the session, Asia’s benchmark stock index was on track to enter a bull market, as China’s reopening and a weakening dollar lure investors back to the region. **The MSCI Asia Pacific Index climbed as much as 1.9% on Monday, taking its advance from an Oct. 24 low to more than 20%.** The Asian benchmark is up 3.7% so far in 2023, beating the S&P 500 Index by about two percentage points. That’s after they both slumped about 19% last year, their worst performance since 2008.



Gauges in Hong Kong, Taiwan and South Korea led gains in the session, while Japan was closed for a holiday. Strategists have predicted a better year for Asian equities after a dismal 2022, especially as stocks in China, which carry the second-highest weighting in the regional gauge after Japan, turned a corner in November following the nation's shift away from stringent virus curbs. The bull market milestone comes after the MSCI Asia gauge tumbled nearly 40% from a peak in early 2021. The MSCI Emerging Markets Index is on track to enter a bull market after surging more than 20% from its October low, boosted by Chinese stocks after the nation pivoted on its Covid strategy and offered more policy support for the economy.

- Brazil's capital was recovering early Monday from an insurrection by thousands of supporters of ex-President Jair Bolsonaro who stormed the country's top government institutions, leaving a trail of destruction and testing the leadership of Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva just a week after he took office

War, sanctions, inflation, markets, government: jan9 **A "Checkmate-Like" Situation: Zoltan Pozsar Says Fed Will Restart QE By The Summer Of 2023**

was just thining this yesterday. It could turn into a sort of volatile chart with regard to the federal funds rate, where America changing the rate to conform to constantly changing financial conditions. Maybe ythis whole high rates atmossphere won't be sustainable, causing the american government to re-adjust, again.

Stats, vaccine, health: jan9 **schools shutting down: Declining birthrates, a rise in home schooling and growing competition from private and charter schools are contributing to the decline in traditional public school enrollment, according to school officials."**
https://www.wsj.com/articles/public-schools-lost-more-than-one-million-students-during-pandemic-11672881798

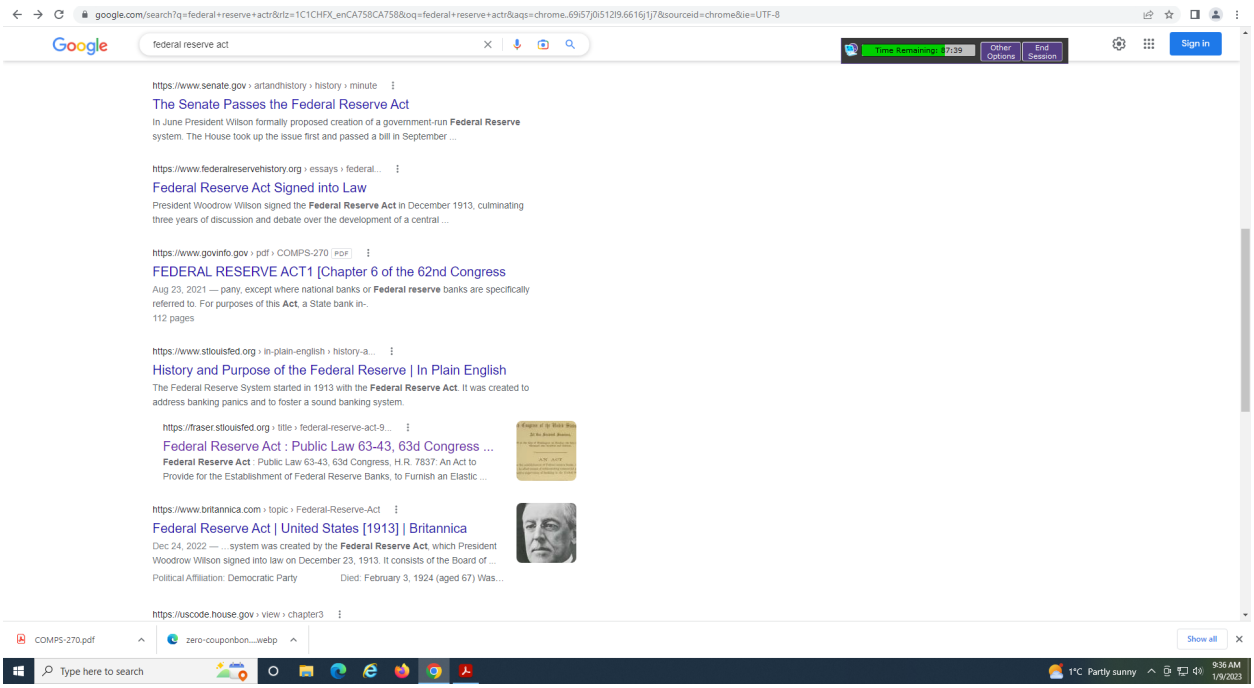
inflation, stats, markets, censorship: **[3]3 messages in conversationpretty sure this whole kaplan trading scandal thing is actually only supposed to result in a fine and being kicked out of office--not criminal. Have to read the federal reserve act again**

13. Any Federal reserve bank may receive from any of its memberbanks, and from the United States, deposits of current funds in lawful money,national-bank notes, Federal reserve notes, or checks and drafts upon solventmember banks, payable upon presentation; or, solely for exchange purposes,may receive from other Federal reserve banks deposits of current funds inlawful money, national-bank notes, or checks and drafts upon solvent m em ber or other Federal reserve banks, payable upon presentation. Upon the indorsement of any of its member banks, with a waiver of demand,notice and protest by such bank, any Federal reserve bank may discount notes,drafts, and bills of exchange arising out of actual commercial transactions; that is, notes, drafts, and bills of exchange issued or drawn for agricultural, industrial,or commercial purposes, or the proceeds of which have been used, or are to be used, for such

purposes, the Federal Reserve Board to have the right to determine or define the character of the paper thus eligible for discount, within the meaning of this Act. Nothing in this Act contained shall be construed to prohibit such notes, drafts, and bills of exchange, secured by staple agriculturalproducts, or other goods, wares, or merchandise from being eligible for such discount; but such definition shall not include notes, drafts, or bills coveringmerely investments or issued or drawn for the purpose of carrying or trading in stocks, bonds, or other investment securities, except bonds and notes of theGovernment of the United States. Notes, drafts, and bills adm itted to discount under the terms of this paragraph must have a maturity at the time of discountof not more than ninety days: Provided, That notes, drafts, and bills drawn or issued for agricultural purposes or based on live stock and having a maturity notexceeding six months may be discounted in an amount to be limited to a percentage of the capital of the Federal reserve bank, to be ascertained and fixed by the Federal Reserve Board. Any Federal reserve bank may
discount acceptances which are based on the importation or exportation of goods and which have a maturity at time of discount of not more than three months, and indorsed by at least one mem ber bank.

this link presents itself as the federal reserve act, when in fact it is not
https://perma.cc/3DNG-RA24

it's top ranked on google for federal reserve act...


google.com/search?q=federal+reserve+act&rlz=1C1CHFX_enCA758CA758&oq=federal+reserve+actr&aqs=chrome.69i57j0i512l9.6616j1j7&sourceid=chrome&ie=UTF-8
Google
federal reserve act
Time Remaining: 37:39
Other Options
End Session
Sign in
https://www.senate.gov › artandhistory › history › minute
The Senate Passes the Federal Reserve Act
In June President Wilson formally proposed creation of a government-run Federal Reserve system. The House took up the issue first and passed a bill in September ...
https://www.federalreservehistory.org › essays › federal...
Federal Reserve Act Signed into Law
President Woodrow Wilson signed the Federal Reserve Act in December 1913, culminating three years of discussion and debate over the development of a central ...
https://www.govinfo.gov › pdf › COMPS-270 PDF
FEDERAL RESERVE ACT1 [Chapter 6 of the 62nd Congress
Aug 23, 2021 — pany, except where national banks or Federal reserve banks are specifically referred to. For purposes of this Act, a State bank in-.
112 pages
https://www.stlouisfed.org › in-plain-english › history-a...
History and Purpose of the Federal Reserve | In Plain English
The Federal Reserve System started in 1913 with the Federal Reserve Act. It was created to address banking panics and to foster a sound banking system.
https://fraser.stlouisfed.org › title › federal-reserve-act-9...
Federal Reserve Act : Public Law 63-43, 63d Congress ...
Federal Reserve Act : Public Law 63-43, 63d Congress, H.R. 7837: An Act to Provide for the Establishment of Federal Reserve Banks, to Furnish an Elastic ...
https://www.britannica.com › topic › Federal-Reserve-Act
Federal Reserve Act | United States [1913] | Britannica
Dec 24, 2022 — ...system was created by the Federal Reserve Act, which President Woodrow Wilson signed into law on December 23, 1913. It consists of the Board of ...
Political Affiliation: Democratic Party
Died: February 3, 1924 (aged 67) Was...
https://uscode.house.gov › view › chapter3
COMPS-270.pdf
zero-couponbon....webp
Show all
Type here to search
1°C Partly sunny
9:36 AM
1/9/2023

this link here provides the actual federal reserve act. I know because i searched for the word securities and it showed it was oinly mentioned 3 times in the whole act, and when I checked a 'better source'--didn't think I'd run into problems with stlouis feds official website, but whatever--it showed the word ws mentioned 44 times, which didn't surprise me because I've scanned though the act many times at this point.
https://www.govinfo.gov/app/details/COMPS-270

history, markets, stats: **Banker’s acceptances have been around since the 12th century. Just like now, BAs were used as a method of facilitating trade. In the 18th and 19th centuries, BAs started to become an actively traded market in London.**

"The use of BAs is most common in international trade transactions. A buyer with an importing business can issue a banker’s acceptance with a date after a shipment is due to be delivered, and the seller with an exporting business will have the payment instrument in hand before finalizing the shipment."

The person who is paid with a banker's acceptance may hold onto it until its maturity date in order to receive its full value or can sell it immediately at a discount to face value.

Unlike a regular check, a banker’s acceptance relies on the creditworthiness of the banking institution rather than the individual or business that issues it. The bank requires that the issuer meet its credit eligibility requirements, typically including a deposit sufficient to cover the banker’s acceptance.

Zero-Coupon Bond
[ˈzir-(ˌ)ō ˈkü-ˌpän ˈbänd]
A debt security that does not pay interest but instead trades at a deep discount, rendering a profit at maturity, when the bond is redeemed for its full face value.
ON SALE
$50
Investopedia
Investopedia / Laura Porter

A zero-coupon bond, also known as an accrual bond, is a debt security that does not pay interest but instead trades at a deep discount, rendering a profit at maturity, when the bond is redeemed for its full face value.

Government, china, sanctions, war: jan8 **US Computer Giant Dell to Replace All China-Made Chips in Its Products by 2024**

War, Erdogan: jan8 **Warning Shots Fired as Greek, Turkish Patrol Boats Face Off**

Health, stats, media, censorship: jan8 **1:17 on cancer is a perfect example of groupthink in the science community, and even medical community**
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rmxUsAI29fw&t=67s

tech, ai: jan8 **DoNotPay, a company founded in 2015 by a then-Stanford University freshman to appeal parking tickets, develops robot AI**

tech, stats, ai: jan8 **AI-Powered 'Robot Lawyer' Takes First Court Case Next Month**

stats, media, censorship: jan8 **Australia allows consent as a legitimate defense for sex with a minor, and of any age, apparently**

But, they can consent to sexual intercourse, making consent or reasonable belief of consent available as a defence, even when a child is involved.

Judge Richard Earwaker, who presided over the case, addressed the issue of consent on a person under 16 years old in the final days of the trial, the New Zealand Herald reported.
"Legally, a person under 16 cannot give consent for charges of indecent acts, therefore as a jury, all you need to decide is if the indecent acts took place," he said. "But as for sexual intercourse, a person under 16 can give

consent. You need to consider whether or not the consent was given based on the evidence you have."

https://www.theguardian.com/world/2022/aug/05/calls-for-changes-to-new-zealand-law-after-rapist-claims-sex-with-12-year-old-consensual

censorship, media, stats, vaccine: jan8 read later: "These Doctors Pushed Masking, Covid Lockdowns on Twitter. Turns Out, They Don't Exist"

Among other disturbing precedents, the strange episode recalls the saga of a white Arizona State University professor who admitted to inventing a bisexual Hopi Native American colleague she claimed died of COVID-19. At the time, a professor at the University of Arizona who is Hopi told The Daily Beast of their nonexistent colleague, "It sounds like a hoax to me. If so, it's a sick hoax."

Before the account was deleted on Tuesday, Honeyman's tweets were shrouded in skepticism and demands for answers about their real identity—and whether they suffered any loss at all.

"Who r u and what's your motivation for all these lies?" one Twitter follower demanded.

https://www.thedailybeast.com/robert-honeyman-described-a-covid-nightmare-on-twitter-before-people-started-asking-questions

The San Francisco Standard

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From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

The San Francisco Standard	
Format	Online
Editor-in-chief	Jonathan Weber
Language	English
Headquarters	San Francisco, California
Website	sfstandard.com

The San Francisco Standard is an online news organization based in San Francisco, California. It was funded in part by the billionaire venture capitalist Michael Moritz. The Standard was covered in other media for its coverage of Chesa Boudin's drug prosecution record.[1]

The San Francisco Standard was originally *Here/Say Media*, a project of Civic Action Labs, a 501(c)4 nonprofit. Some journalism ethicists were concerned about the organization's structure (nearly all nonprofit journalism organizations are 501(c)3 nonprofits) and refusal to disclose its donors.[2][3] In March 2021, Here/Say disclosed on its website that it was funded by Crankstart, a foundation funded by Michael Moritz and Harriet Heyman.[3] In August 2021, Here/Say wrote that it had incorporated into an independent, for-profit entity, and that Moritz and Heyman had invested $10 million.[4]

In November 2021, Here/Say Media announced that that the organization changed its name to *The San Francisco Standard*.[5]

In December 2021, the Standard partnered with ABC 7 to cover the 2022 California's 17th State Assembly district special election.

The San Francisco Standard's voter poll was featured in news coverage on the recall election of San Francisco District Attorney Chesa Boudin.[6][7]

In May 2022, the Standard published a story showing that Boudin's office secured three convictions for drug dealing in 2021, whereas Boudin's predecessor George Gascón oversaw over 90 convictions in 2018. Instead, Boudin's office emphasized convictions for a different crime which would not penalize foreign nationals with deportation or threats to naturalization.[8] The story generated secondary coverage in the National Review,[9] Washington Monthly,[10] Center for Immigration Studies,[11] Courthouse News Service.[12] The story was criticized by Matt Charnock of *The Bold Italic* for allegedly misrepresenting facts and contributing to xenophobic rhetoric.[1]

References[edit]

1. ^ Jump up to:[a] [b] *Charnock, Matt (2022-05-19). "We Need to Talk About How Dangerous This Reported Piece on DA Chesa Boudin Is to San Francisco". The Bold Italic. Retrieved 2022-07-27.*
2. ^ *Selig, Kate (2021-01-29). "New venture Here/Say Media won't disclose who its donors are. Experts say that's concerning". Mission Local. Retrieved 2022-07-27.*
3. ^ Jump up to:[a] [b] *Schleifer, Theodore (2021-03-27). "How a $25 million donation to help students got ensnared in politics". Vox Media. Retrieved 2022-07-27.*
4. ^ *"Jonathan Weber Joins Here/Say Media as Editor-in-Chief". The San Francisco Standard. 2021-08-10. Retrieved 2022-07-27.*
5. ^ *"Here/Say Media Has a New Name". The San Francisco Standard. 2021-11-13. Retrieved 2022-07-27.*
6. ^ *Dorn, Andrew (2022-06-07). "Why many outside San Francisco are watching the DA recall". NewsNation. Retrieved 2022-07-27.*
7. ^ *Lowrey, Annie (2022-05-19). "The People vs. Chesa Boudin". The Atlantic. Retrieved 2022-07-27.*
8. ^ *Tong, Anna; Koehn, Josh (2022-05-17). "DA Boudin and Fentanyl: Court Data Shows Just 3 Drug Dealing Convictions in 2021 as Immigration Concerns Shaped Policy". The San Francisco Standard. Retrieved 2022-08-17.*
9. ^ *Mills, Ryan (2022-06-08). "Progressive D.A. Chesa Boudin Recalled by San Francisco Voters". National Review. Retrieved 2022-07-27.*
10. ^ *Scher, Bill (2022-06-10). "What Democrats Understand About Crime That Chesa Boudin Did Not". Washington Monthly. Retrieved 2022-07-27.*
11. ^ *Arthur, Andrew R. (2022-06-07). "San Francisco DA Degrades Immigration Enforcement". Center for Immigration Studies. Retrieved 2022-07-27.*
12. ^ *Hanson, Natalie. "Voters, investors and crime experts have eyes on bid to recall San Francisco DA". Courthouse News Service. Retrieved 2022-07-27.*

External Links[edit]

- San Francisco Standard website

Categories:

- News media in the United States
- Companies based in San Francisco

- This page was last edited on 31 October 2022, at 06:02 (UTC).
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The two fake doctors, whose accounts urged extreme caution about Covid-19, were part of a network of at least four fake accounts that touted their ties to the LGBTQ+ community, vocally advocated for mask-wearing and social distancing, and dished out criticism to those they felt were not taking the pandemic seriously.

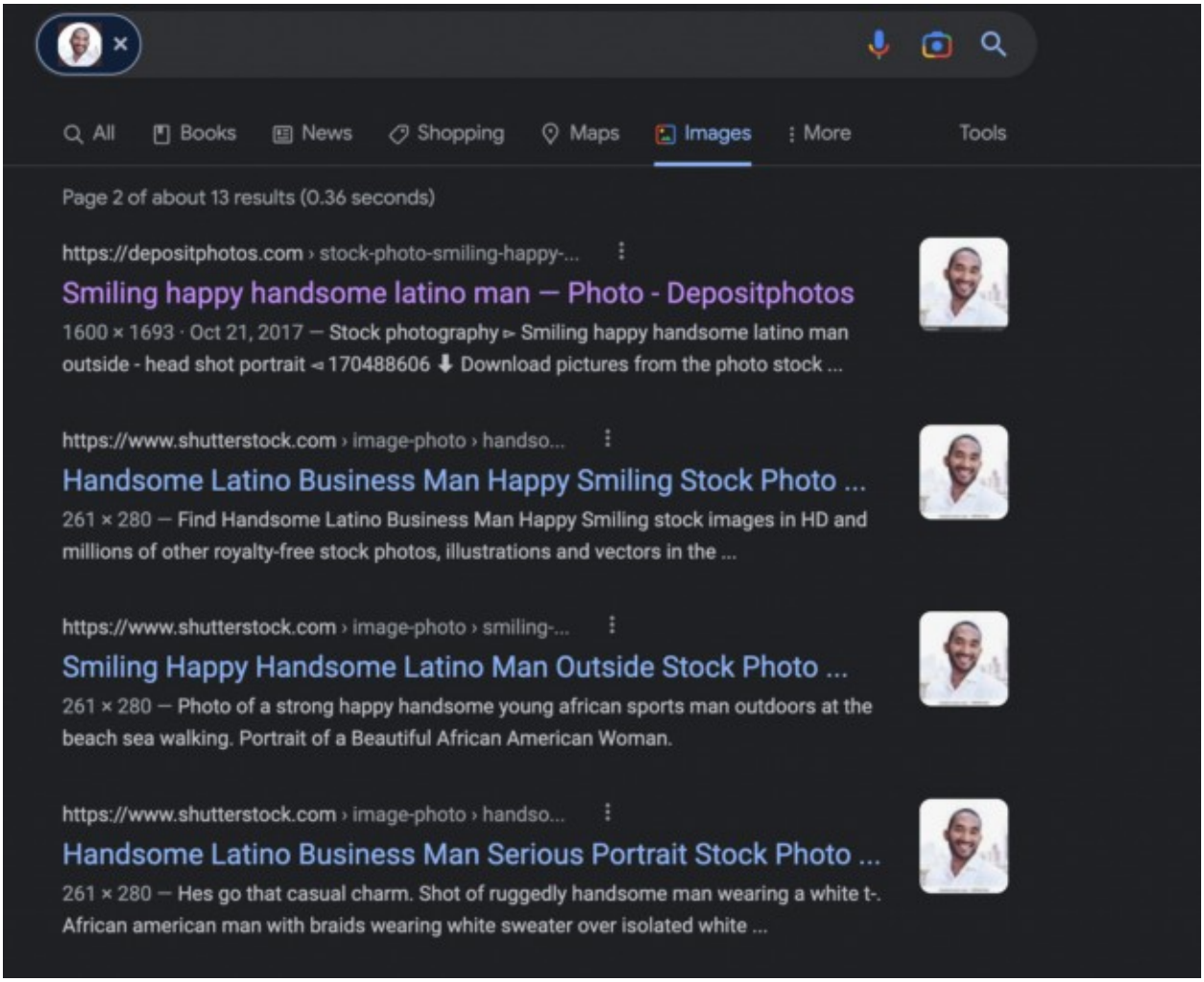
The Honeymans could not be reached for comment, as they do not exist. At publication time, Robert Honeyman's account was no longer active.

The fake doctors were uncovered by Joshua Gutterman Tranen, a self-described "gay writer" pursuing a master's of fine arts at Bennington College. He saw Robert Honeyman's tweet about their husband being in a coma, noticed people he followed also followed them, and thought that they might be part of the LGBTQ+ academic community.

But after 10 minutes of googling, Gutterman Tranen concluded that Robert Honeyman's photo was a stock image and their biography stretched boundaries of believability: an academic who left no traces on academic websites and had lost two family members to Covid in late 2022, despite masking and distancing.

The character looked like "liberal Mad Libs," Gutterman Tranen said.

"I'm a self-identified leftist, and I understand that people have a lot of different identities, but it felt concocted in the lab about how many identities and horrible experiences can we put on one person," he said.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261 × 280 — Photo of a strong happy handsome young african sports man outdoors at the beach sea walking. Portrait of a Beautiful African American Woman.
https://www.shutterstock.com › image-photo › handso...
Handsome Latino Business Man Serious Portrait Stock Photo ...
261 × 280 — Hes go that casual charm. Shot of ruggedly handsome man wearing a white t-. African american man with braids wearing white sweater over isolated white ...

The Standard ran Dr. Robert Honeyman's Twitter photo through a Google reverse image search and found that it was a widely available stock photo. (Screenshot)

Throughout the pandemic, Twitter has been an important, if complicated, platform. Medical experts have used it to speak directly to the public about Covid and to criticize policies that they feel don't do enough to protect people from the disease.

But Twitter has also been a site of disinformation and provocative claims that are based in fact or scientific knowledge but lack context. As the pandemic has dragged on, governments have lifted Covid restrictions, and people have shed their masks, more of the burden of charting a path in the "new normal" has fallen on individuals. And public-facing experts like UCSF's Bob Wachter and Monica Gandhi have become important sources of advice.

But as the iconic *New Yorker* cartoon states, “On the internet, nobody knows you’re a dog”—or a fake doctor, for that matter.

The Honeymans offer one of the most blatant examples of this. It is unclear who created the two doctors, but their bios and personas signpost identities meant to appeal to a certain type of Twitter denizen: liberal, pro-diversity and concerned about Covid. Or meant to provoke the opposite of that type of person.

Both doctors present themselves as members of the LGBTQ+ community. Robert displayed the trans and Ukrainian flags in their Twitter name. Patrick had a rainbow flag in his bio.

Robert wrote openly about suffering from MPX, an infectious disease that caused San Francisco to declare a state of emergency earlier this year and had largely spread among men who have sex with men. “Don’t believe what the media have been sharing. […] it’s a horrible disease that has had me bed ridden,” they tweeted in July. They also claimed to have been the victim of a transphobic attack in October.

Another account associated with the group, Dr. Gerold Fischer, displayed rainbow, trans and Ukrainian flags next to his name and described himself as “an ally for all in the #LGBQT+ Community. #WearAMask.” Fischer’s account has since been taken down.

A fourth account, Dr. Steve “Ste” Ville, who claimed an affiliation with the University of Antwerp, described himself as an “LGBTQ+ Ally” and a “Proud Mask Wearer.”

All four doctors had a few things in common. Three had created their accounts during the pandemic. Fischer’s account dated to 2019, but his earliest visible tweet was from July 2022.

The doctors also frequently interacted with one another. Fischer’s first tweets were, in fact, a retweet, a quote tweet and a response to Robert Honeyman.

Robert Honeyman claimed that Fischer, who said he was suffering from post-Covid brain fog, was “the sharpest individual” they met at university. The two “doctors” sent greetings to each other’s families.

All four accounts urged caution about Covid. They also amplified the voices of other Twitter users calling on the public to mask, vaccinate and socially distance. At times, they criticized policies that they felt undermined

pandemic safety and individuals who they believed did not take Covid seriously enough.

But as Twitter users responded to Gutterman Tranen's thread on the Honeymans, they also discovered the accounts expressing views that appeared implausible.

"Come on china! Stop protesting, I wish we had similar lockdown measures here," Robert Honeyman wrote in a Nov. 27 tweet.

They also claimed to have been a consultant who helped to the make the character Velma a lesbian in the new Scooby-Doo movie.

The Standard was unable to establish who created the four fake doctors. But perhaps the most alarming aspect of their nonexistence online is that it is also unclear *why* they were created.

Gutterman Tranen wondered about the motivation behind them.

"Is this someone who is well-intentioned but perhaps has a lot of anxiety about Covid, and this is a way for them to act out those anxieties?" he asked. "Or is this something more nefarious where someone thinks creating accounts like this is a way to point at them and say: 'Look how crazy the liberals are'?"

As he watches his initial tweet about the Honeymans go viral, Gutterman Tranen is philosophical about the situation. He believes people are responding so strongly to his discovery because we all know that these kinds of accounts exist, but we seldom delve deeply into whether the person tweeting is actually authentic.

"We've just accepted that disinformation is an essential part of how Twitter works," he said.

But as Twitter users marveled over the four fake doctors, at least one "person" wasn't having it: Ville.

"Disgusting to see the accusations being thrown my way, it's truly incredible to see how quick 'good' people can switch up on you in the blink of an eye," he tweeted on Dec. 13, "that age old saying rings true, 'The one thing they love more than a hero is to see a hero fail, fall, die trying.'"

Rage on, Dr. Steve.

Energy, markets, history, sanctions: jan8
Colonial Pipeline, carrying some 45 percent of the gasoline and diesel fuel the East Coast of the U.S. consumes, helping oil prices to steady on Thursday after a massive selloff on Tuesday and Wednesday that saw crude oil plunging by 9% in two days for the worst start to a year since 1991.
The Colonial Pipeline disruption is the second oil/fuel pipeline shutdown in as many months.

Colonial Shuts Key Fuel Pipeline to New York Harbor After Spill

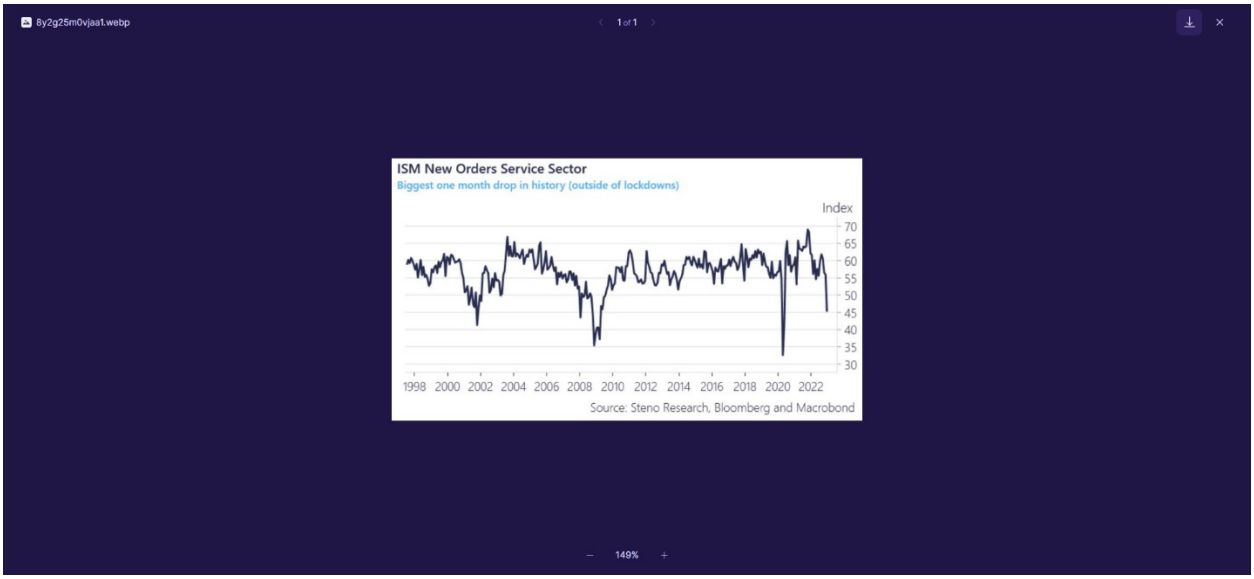
Sheela Tobben and Chunzi Xu, Bloomberg News

-

(Bloomberg) -- Colonial Pipeline Co. halted operations on a critical conduit that supplies fuel to the US Northeast, the latest disruption to energy flows following an outage on the Keystone oil pipeline last month.
Some product was released at Colonial's Witt booster station near Danville, Virginia, prompting the shutdown of its Line 3 Tuesday, spokeswoman Meredith Stone said in an email. The company is planning a restart at around 12 p.m. Eastern time on Saturday, she said. The company said an equipment failure had resulted in the leak, and this was being repaired.
The ruptured Colonial pipe leaked an estimated 60 barrels of diesel, which flowed into a storm water collection basin at its facility, said Aaron Proctor, a spokesman for the state's environmental quality department. The pipe's operator indicated it expected repairs will occur by Friday, according to an emailed statement from the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration.
Colonial's Line 3 transports refined products such as gasoline, diesel and jet fuel to the New York Harbor market from Greensboro, North Carolina, and is part of a broader system that supplies fuels to the eastern US from refineries on the Gulf Coast.
The incident follows the outage to TC Energy Corp.'s Keystone pipeline after the biggest onshore oil spill since 2010. The conduit, which can deliver as much as 600,000 barrels a day of Canadian crude into the US Midwest, only fully returned to service last week.

The outage coincided with the largest weekly drop in US gasoline demand since March 2020. The weakness for consumption means fuel producers on the Gulf Coast are feeling the pinch from the pipeline disruption more than consumers: Gulf Coast gasoline fell by a couple cents per gallon against futures following the outage, while New York markets also softened. East Coast gasoline supplies have been building over the past few weeks during a seasonal demand lull worsened by a severe winter storm.
New York Harbor is a major import hub receiving fuel from Canada, Europe, India and South America, making it better insulated from Colonial pipeline disruptions than the Southeast. A prolonged outage of Line 3 could strain supplies on the East Coast, though, while flooding the Gulf Coast with fuel.
Colonial didn’t provide details about the volume and product that leaked.
--With assistance from Joe Aboussleman.
(Updates with additional comments from Colonial in second paragraph and price movements in sixth paragraph)

Markets: ISM New Orders Service Sector shows crazy drop (not seen other than during the lockdown)… Most major banks agree: 2023 spells BIG TROUBLE for the U.S. economy



Stats, housing: jan8 they say median mortgage payment is the better guage of the average than calculating the actual average in a recent business insider article

Data from the 2021 American Community Survey shows that homeowners paid a median amount of $1,672 per month

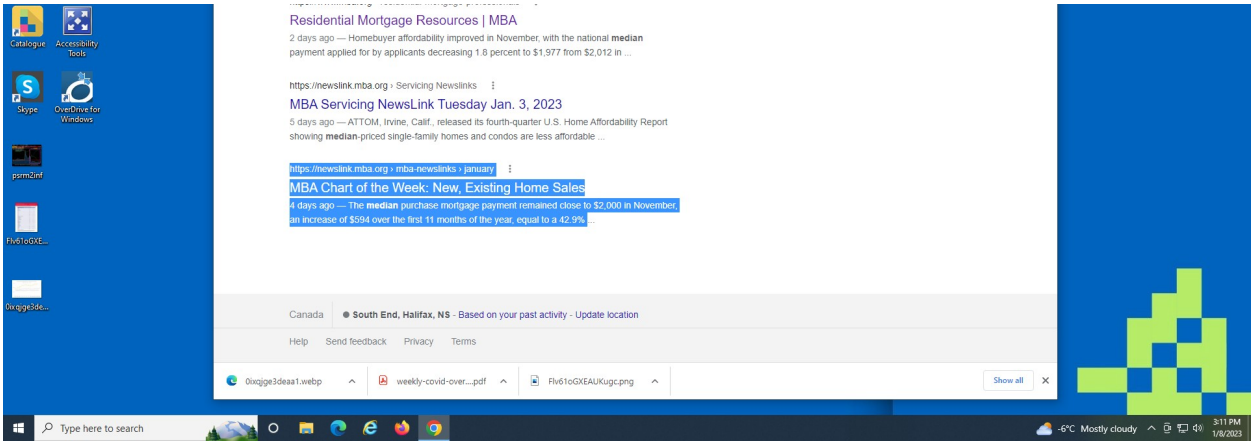
However, an average, which can be skewed by payments that are atypically low or high, probably isn't the most accurate depiction of what the typical US homeowner actually pays. A better measure of this is the median, which represents the middle number in a data set.

The median monthly cost of homeownership in the US is $1,672 per month, according to the most recent data from the Census Bureau's 2021 American Community Survey. That cost includes not only the monthly mortgage payment, but also other necessary costs like homeowners insurance, HOA fees, and property taxes.

businessinsiderdotcom/personal-finance/average-mortgage-payment

The reason I'm savingthis is because i see in this chart that the median rose to 2600 in 2022. When I looked at the business insider article, they cite the lower number, but then igf you look closer, you see that they are referencing 2021 figures, even though the article says it was written this year in january.

then it says this on the best source


Residential Mortgage Resources | MBA
2 days ago — Homebuyer affordability improved in November, with the national median payment applied for by applicants decreasing 1.8 percent to $1,977 from $2,012 in ...
https://newslink.mba.org › Servicing Newslinks
MBA Servicing NewsLink Tuesday Jan. 3, 2023
5 days ago — ATTOM, Irvine, Calif., released its fourth-quarter U.S. Home Affordability Report showing median-priced single-family homes and condos are less affordable ...
https://newslink.mba.org › mba-newslinks › january
MBA Chart of the Week: New, Existing Home Sales
4 days ago — The median purchase mortgage payment remained close to $2,000 in November, an increase of $594 over the first 11 months of the year, equal to a 42.9% ...
Canada
South End, Halifax, NS - Based on your past activity - Update location
Help
Send feedback
Privacy
Terms
Show all
Type here to search
-6°C Mostly cloudy
3:11 PM
1/8/2023

and after reading this article here, you see that the rise was due to the fed pivot

Homebuyer affordability worsened in October as higher mortgage rates pushed the monthly payment to record highs.

The national median monthly payment increased 3.7% to $2,012 in October from $1,941 in September, according to the Mortgage Bankers Association (MBA), marking a new high for the survey. That's also equal to a 45.5% year-over-year increase, increasing the average monthly mortgage payment by $629 in the first 10 months of the year.

The figures underscore the challenging conditions many would-be buyers have faced this year as higher rates, elevated home prices, and inflation put homeownership out of reach.

"Higher mortgage rates are also squeezing the purchasing power of prospective buyers," Edward Seiler, MBA's associate vice president, housing economics, and executive director, Research Institute for Housing America, said in a news statement. "The median loan amount last month decreased to $295,000 – the lowest level since January 2021."

ca.news.yahoo.com/housing-median-mortgage-payment-reaches-record-high-in-october-145537241.html

stats: **Layoffs.fyi is tracking corporate layoffs in the tech sector**

censorship: jan8 Leader of the Conservative Party of canada, the official opposition for the country, says, "Free speech isn't free unless people are allowed to disagree" in response to the Jordan Peterson debacle

twitterdotcom/PierrePoilievre/status/1611363161126633472?

Vaccine, health: jan8 Australia reports 5.6% death rate due to COVID infection for the week ending december 31st

Table 1. People with a COVID-19 diagnosis in the previous 14 days who were admitted to hospital, admitted to ICU or reported as having died in the two weeks ending 31 December 2022

	Admitted to hospital (but not to ICU)	Admitted to ICU	Deaths
Gender			
Female	842	63	42
Indeterminate	1	0	0
Male	936	77	53
Age group (years)			
0-9	85	3	0
10-19	24	3	0
20-29	67	8	1
30-39	79	7	0
40-49	64	6	0
50-59	105	17	3
60-69	199	27	8
70-79	436	42	19
80-89	507	24	31
90+	213	3	33
Local Health District of residence*			
Central Coast	113	3	5
Illawarra Shoalhaven	135	8	7
Nepean Blue Mountains	82	7	2
Northern Sydney	165	12	9
South Eastern Sydney	184	13	11
South Western Sydney	190	18	13
Sydney	157	10	5
Western Sydney	165	26	8
Far West	20	0	0
Hunter New England	176	16	16
Mid North Coast	76	5	3
Murrumbidgee	59	7	1
Northern NSW	77	3	8
Southern NSW	54	2	1
Western NSW	94	6	4
Vaccination status^			
Four or more doses	810	58	53
Three doses	377	29	19
Two doses	218	17	9
One dose	10	1	1
No dose	0	0	6
Unknown	364	35	7
Total	**1779**	**140**	**95**

*Excludes cases in correctional settings

^Vaccination status is determined by matching to Australian Immunisation Register (AIR) data. Name and date of birth need to be an exact match to that recorded in AIR for vaccination status to be determined. People with unknown vaccination status were those unable to be found in AIR. This may occur when names in AIR are different, for example shortened name or different spelling, to those used for the COVID-19 notification.

twitterdotcom/rodochri90/status/1611158706661765121?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw%7Ctwcamp%5Etweetembed%7Ctwterm%5E1611159982912962562%7Ctwgr%5E61cb8847d47f04f6571a5504c984f1463c523d01%7Ctwcon%5Es2_&ref_url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.investmentwatchblog.com%2Fholy-shit-the-weekly-covid-report-in-australia%2F

stats, vaccine, health, censorship: jan8 **More people died than were born in the Netherlands for the first time since 1900, entire growth last year all due to migration**

‘The birth rate has been falling and deaths increasing for years, so it could be a temporary dip,’ Ter Steege said. ‘But if the excess deaths stop next year then more babies will be born than people dying.’

Read more at DutchNews.nl:

Media, stats, censorship: jan8 Former Lobbyist: Soda Companies Paid NAACP And Other Groups To Call Opponents “Racist”

“We (Coke) will give you money. You need to paint opponents of us as racist.”
The effort was successful, and the message was carried in thousands of articles between 2011-2013.
https://www.thegatewaypundit.com/2023/01/former-lobbyist-soda-companies-paid-naacp-groups-call-opponents-racist/

Calley Means

Jan 2 • 11 tweets • 4 min read

Early in my career, I consulted for Coke to ensure sugar taxes failed and soda was included in food stamp funding.

I say Coke's policies are evil because I saw inside the room.

The first step in playbook was paying the NAACP + other civil rights groups to call opponents racist

Coke gave millions to the NAACP and the Hispanic Federation - both directly and through front groups like the American

Beverage Association.

This picked up in 2011-2013 - when the Farm Bill and soda taxes were under consideration.

nutritioninsight.com/news/cspi-repo...

But according to a new report issued by the nonprofit Center for Science in the Public Interest, that case, in which the state chapter of the NAACP and the Hispanic Federation unexpectedly joined Big Soda's legal fight, is just the latest illustration of the persuasive power of "philanthropic" grants from the sugar-drinks industry.

Both groups received grants from Coca-Cola, with the national NAACP receiving at least $2.1 million from the soda giant since 1986, including $100,000 as recently as December. The Hispanic Federation also lists Coke as a donor, and in February 2012 its president, Lillian Rodriguez Lopez, left the nonprofit group to become director of Latin affairs at the company.

According to CSPI's report, Selfish Giving, the soda industry's targeted generosity doesn't stop with civil rights or minority groups. Over the years, the industry has given money to—and cultivated relationships with—groups representing doctors, dentists, dietitians, anti-hunger advocates, and others.

Sometimes, the industry's influence can be subtle, as when in 2009 a $600,000 grant from Coca-Cola paid for a health website for the American Academy of Family Physicians. While that site offers mild advice to consumers to choose water over sugary drinks, it does so with soft, industry-friendly language that echoes the industry's talking points, which often stress the need for "hydration." To the AAFP's credit, the group does support soda taxes, according to CSPI. And in 2003, a $1 million grant from Coca-Cola was seemingly enough to get the president of the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry to suddenly hedge the group's position on the extent to which soda causes cavities.

Coca-Cola, PepsiCo, Dr Pepper Snapple Group, the American Beverage Association, and Kraft Foods, maker of such sugar drinks as Kool Aid and Capri Sun, are also big donors to two major anti-hunger groups, the Food Research and Action Center and Feeding America. Those two groups, alongside the beverage industry, oppose barring the use of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (formerly known as Food Stamps) to purchase sugar drinks. FRAC and Feeding America are highly respected organizations, but CSPI says their opposition to changes that would improve their constituents' health raises questions about their longstanding ties to food and beverage companies.

The conversations inside these rooms was depressingly transactional:

"We (Coke) will give you money. You need to paint opponents of us as racist."
The effort was successful, and the message was carried in thousands of articles between 2011-2013.

Coke's position was clear: soda is one of the cheapest ways to get calories - a flagrantly inaccurate statement when factoring in the health consequences.

I watched as the FDA funneled money to professors at leading universities - as well as think tanks on the left and right - to create studies showing soda taxes hurt the poor. They also paid for studies that say drinking soda DIDN'T cause obesity.

reuters.com/article/us-usa...
Of course, not mentioned in these studies is that incontrovertible fact that sugary drinks are one of the top causes of obesity and diabetes - leading to harrowing statistics like this.
Soda companies are deeply embedded in the USDA - so much so that the agency carries discredited talking points like "there are no bad food, only bad diets."

This ignores fact that sugar is highly addictive and has negative nutritional value.

In 2007, USDA had spelled out its position at greater length, in a memorandum titled "Implications of Restricting the Use of Food Stamp Benefits."[21] This document asserted that there are no inherently bad foods, only bad diets resulting from bad combinations or quantities of food. For SSBs, federal dietary guidelines say, "If they are consumed, amounts should be within overall calorie limits and limits for calories from added sugars."[22]

The 2007 memo goes on to say it would be burdensome for USDA to maintain an up to date list of products such as SSBs not allowable under SNAP, since an average of 12,000 new food products are introduced into retail stores every year. The task of identifying, evaluating, and tracking the nutrition profile of so many products could require a significantly expanded federal bureaucracy, or place an unacceptable certification burden on manufacturers. In addition, ordinary SNAP recipients could not be expected to know exactly which foods were allowable and which were not, so final enforcement would rest with poorly trained check-out clerks in the 260,000 stores authorized to accept food stamps. Particularly in smaller stores or specialty stores without modern scanning and inventory control systems, confusion over allowable items would slow down checkout, and rejections at checkout might be a stigmatizing experience.

In the end: racial tensions flared, soda spending was kept in SNAP funding, and many of the soda taxes were defeated...

Of course, this has been a disaster for low-income communities. Addictive, deadly sugary drinks should never be included in a government nutrition program.
People saying that restricting soda from SNAP funding is "paternalistic" or an "assault on personal choice" are unwittingly doing the work of the soda companies.

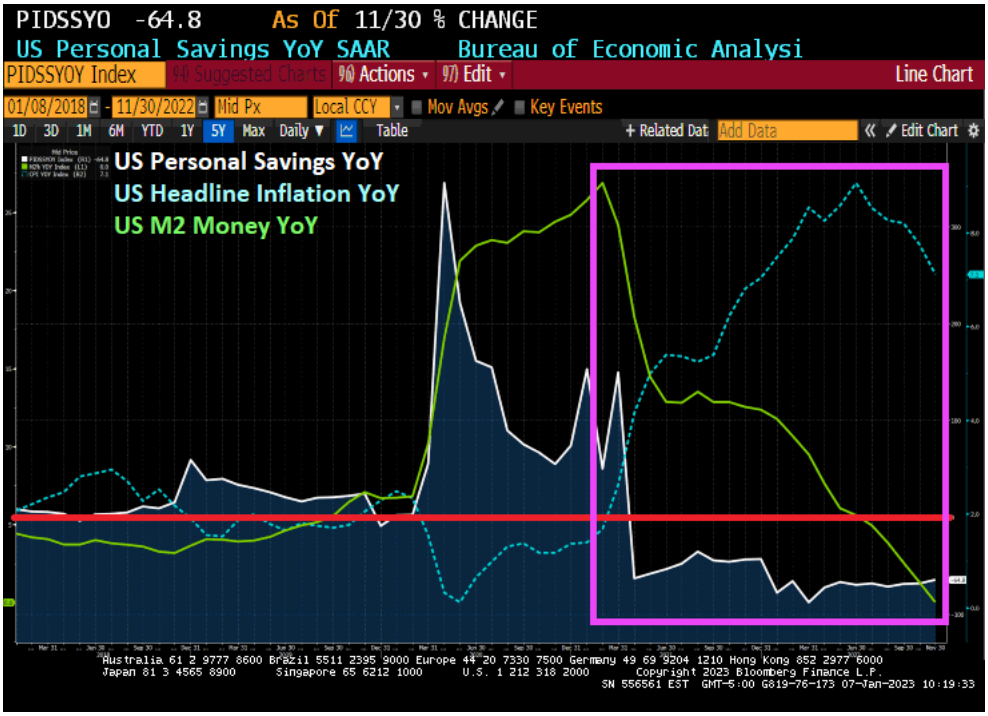
You can't have a free market if that market is rigged.
If this resonates, I am sending out a daily email exploring the food/health system and giving actionable health ideas that have impacted me:

Crypto, markets, stats: jan8 **Over 100 Countries are developing their own digital currency**

Health, stats, censorship: jan8 **looks like a nice cancer expose just came out; 2 hour documentary. Ill watch this.."Burzynski: The Cancer Cure Cover-up". Addresses beurocracy, regulatory roadblocks..**

Censorship, vaccine: jan8 **Mar 28, 2022 7:47 PM: B.C. doctor accused of spreading COVID-19 misinformation suspended from practice**

Inflation, markets: jan8 **the fed pivot: m2 money yoy 0% growth, lowest level in history, inflation reversing, but still has a way to go**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Stats, vaccine, government, censorship: jan8 Fear Of COVID Is The Opiate Of The People (writer describes the exact same symptoms that were reported by practically everyone (all 100+ people) at our covidemergency quarentine center

After all of the criticism I’ve directed toward Coronamaniacs and the Vaxxmongers over the past three years - in-person and online - I know that many of them have wished that I’d get very sick and die “from Covid.” If I had, they would have gleefully jeered me, as many did when lockdown critic Herman Cain died. Bear in mind that Mr. Cain was 74 and had Stage IV cancer.

Authored by Mark Oshinskie via The Brownstone Institute,

After all of the criticism I’ve directed toward Coronamaniacs and the Vaxxmongers over the past three years - in-person and online - I know that many of them have wished that I’d get very sick and die “from Covid.” If I had, they would have gleefully jeered me, as many did when lockdown critic Herman Cain died. Bear in mind that Mr. Cain was 74 and had Stage IV cancer.

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But I haven’t died “from Covid.” Like the super-vast majority of people, I was never at any risk of doing so.

While I’d prefer to never get sick, I always knew it was possible that I might “get Covid,” just as I had gotten some other, prior, unnamed coronavirus-driven colds or flus. It’s how life is, has been and will always be. Many people seem to be sick lately. It doesn’t help immune function to be in the low light/low Vitamin D state of winter. And during the past three years of disrupted social life, our immune systems haven’t been properly tested.

Many have said that, by Spring, 2022, everyone had been exposed to Covid-causing coronaviruses. Maybe it’s true, though it sounds like hyperbole; I’m not sure how this could be known. Regardless, except for one February, 2020 day of malaise, and then a week-long dry cough with no apparent cause—perhaps a quick, nearly asymptomatic, pre-Lockdown brush with Covid, or perhaps nothing at all—I’ve felt fine for the past three years.

Last week, on the day after Christmas, that changed.

My muscles started to ache. These aches spread and lasted for three days, accompanied by a tight chest and a banging headache. On Day 2, I also got a high fever. I let the fever crest until I took some Tylenol to moderate my temperature. Serial doses over the next two days quelled the headaches. My wife got sick the day after I did and exhibited the same symptoms.

By our respective Day 4s, we each felt much better.

Aside from the fever, we didn’t have the publicized, original Covid symptoms: shortness of breath, dry cough and fatigue. Plus, for what it’s worth, we each tested negative on home antigen tests that my wife had gotten in the mail. Thus, we mutually guessed that

we probably had some form of flu. I didn't care whether or not I had "had Covid." That diagnosis never scared me. I only cared that we felt sick for three days.

A day later, by coincidence—or perhaps because my computer was, in our surveillance society, eavesdropping on my wife and my conversations about how we were feeling, physically—this clickbait headline appeared on my screen: "The New Symptoms of Covid."

I took the bait. The article set forth a revised list of symptoms closely resembling those that my wife and I had just endured.

Hmm. Maybe we did "have Covid." The new kind. Because heaven forbid that anyone might think that they just got some unspecified sort of cold or flu, as they might have thought three-plus years ago.

To the extent I might believe the article, it said that the virus had mutated into yet another variant, this one with the parodic name, "XBB-1.5." I've known for decades that viruses mutate. This adaptability was another reason that I declined to begin to take an endless series of shots said to protect against viruses that would continually go out of fashion, only to be replaced by others.

Throughout, my understanding has been that viruses typically weaken—not strengthen—following such mutations. Thus, I might expect that a coronavirus, SARS-CoV-2, which was unscary to begin with, would cause the same symptoms—only weaker—as it evolved into some different variant under the "Covid" umbrella.

But as a virus weakens, I didn't assume—as the clickbait article suggested—that the types of symptoms would change. I've wondered why an illness caused by an ever-evolving virus, that is supposedly genetically distinct from its viral predecessors and said to cause different symptoms than other viruses or variants have caused, is still widely presented to the public as "Covid."

Like other marketing campaigns—only more so—countless money and boundless effort went into building the "Covid" brand. In order to incite fear, Government/Media/Pharma had to set "Covid" apart from centuries of respiratory illnesses experienced by those infected by other coronaviruses. Given the name recognition that Government/Media have developed for "Covid" since March, 2020, they're motivated to stick with this well-known brand name to describe a viral disease that wasn't much different from centuries of pre-March, 2020 Coronavirus infections; which, in turn, won't be much different from infections that follow it, ad infinitum.

Christian Scientists say that to name a disease is to empower it. But while the Chistian Scientists think it's bad to empower an illness, Government/Media/Pharma have taken the opposite approach: for three years, they've relentlessly strived to empower, and thus, exploit "Covid."

Politically and economically, it's been extremely useful to perpetuate the Covid franchise. Keeping some people scared of Covid helps to sustain the perpetual State of Emergency—oxymoron intended—and all of the Covid-linked government oppression and subsidy schemes that depend upon the myth of crisis. If, instead of referring to "Covid," Government/Media used all of the various variant names, the public might eventually figure out what they should have known in March, 2020: we've always lived

among evolving respiratory viruses that briefly sicken many people but don't seriously threaten anyone who's healthy.

Though to those with the attention span to accommodate all of the shifting variant names, these names might have a certain spooky sci-fi cachet of their own: so many viruses keep emerging that some people feel they're under siege.

But overall, from a fear-marketing standpoint, it's best to stick with the simpler, original brand name:

"Covid."

"Covid."

"Covid."

Did I mention "Covid?"

Government/Media/Pharma have seared "Covid" into the American consciousness and terrorized people by grossly exaggerating Covid's lethality. They aggressively suppressed criticisms of the attendant scam. By repeatedly saying "Covid" and "Pandemic," they weaponized these words in order to pacify and control the masses, to effect the biggest wealth transfer in history to the already rich—including but not limited to, Pharma—to further impoverish the working class that they now disdain, and to strategically change election laws.

Aside from sustaining the perception of a public health Crisis, and to justify imposing a wide array of deprivation restrictions on basic liberties, sustaining Covid brand loyalty also provides at least three other important, continuing benefits.

Firstly, by keeping at least some segment of the population afraid of the Covid bogeyman, politicians can use it as an excuse to print ever more "Covid Emergency" relief and research money, ostensibly, but not actually, to control what Biden strategically labeled "this God-awful disease;" even though everyone I know who has had it experienced it as a cold or flu. This massive, annually supplemented slush fund will be used for a vast array of chicanery, including widespread political patronage, with tentacles reaching through politically-aligned state and municipal governments, political donors, the Medical Industrial Complex and the Defense/Biosecurity apparatus. Covid is worth far more alive than it is dead.

Secondly, sustaining Covidism protects politicians and public health bureaucrats. By continuing to invoke "Covid" to spook a gullible public, the scaremongers can use this word to defuse public anger regarding the overreaction of the past three years and all of the lasting damage which people are belatedly seeing. People who are constantly reminded of the Covid Scare of the past three years or who remain naively scared of the Covid Monster will continue to think that all measures to crush it were worth the suffering that the Government/Media/Pharma opportunistically caused with their orchestrated overreaction. Thus, most people won't demand accountability for the scam of the past three years. They'll allow the Government/Media/Pharma to continue to hide behind the foundational lie that "We did all of that to save you from death!"

Fear of Covid is the opiate of the people.

Lest we forget how essential it was—not—to wreck American society and economy over a virus that threatened almost no one under 75, politicians will order and fund the construction of public monuments where people can go and wring their hands over, and speak in hushed tones about, the deaths of unhealthy septugenarians, octogenarians and nonagenarians “from Covid.”

Thirdly, preserving the Covid Scare also enables Government/Media/Pharma to unilaterally, arbitrarily declare victory over Covid whenever it wants. If Covid ever becomes a political liability, it can be decreed to have been conquered. The self-proclaimed Covid-slaying politicians can portray themselves, and the public health bureaucrats, as saviors of humanity. The Media can hail, and gullible people will venerate, those who may claim to have liberated our nation from the long-lasting grip of, as Trump so inaptly called it, “The Plague.”

Fundamentally, whether my wife or I had some weird, sore-throat-free cold, some nausea-less flu or just the latest style of “Covid,” neither of us enjoyed our three-day viral experience. Like any old school respiratory virus, this one made us feel lousy, albeit with a different constellation of symptoms. We handled it the same way as other viral illnesses: we drank extra water, took some home remedies, and tried to get some extra sleep. A few years ago, no one made a big deal about, or needed to categorize, being sick like this. People rode it out. No one cared what you had. Or didn’t have.

During the three days that my wife and I felt the effects of some sort of virus, I never regretfully thought that I would’ve been fine if I had only worn a mask. Nor, while reclining on the sofa sipping hot tea, did I think to blame anyone for passing a virus to me; I understood that an occasional respiratory infection is an unavoidable cost of social life.

And I definitely didn’t think that any coronavirus justified shutting down a society or mass-injecting some experimental substance.

These measures have failed miserably and caused tremendous, lasting and expanding harm.

markets, china jan8 **Prices of Tesla vehicles in China are now between 13% and 24% lower than they were in September.**

"About a dozen police officers" were on site at the protests in Shanghai. "Return the money, refund our cars," a crowd in one protest video, posted to social media, chants out loud.

Tesla has cut prices to help spur demand as the company heads into the new year. In Q4 2022, Tesla reported a record number of vehicle deliveries, but still missed Wall Street's estimates.

Stats, vaccine, media: jan8 2022 Box Office Still 33% Shy Of Pre-Pandemic Levels

War, history, stats, Erdogan, middle east: jan8 perfect syria brekadown ive been looking for: Without Turkiye’s involvement in Syria, the Neocons’ goal of strangling Russia on gas imports to Europe never happens

Without Turkiye’s involvement in Syria, the Neocons’ goal of strangling Russia on gas imports to Europe never happens. This was the main impetus behind the Syrian War in the first place. To get him on board, Erdogan had to be bribed with a massive land grab, which he’s tried to accomplish.

But when he didn’t do enough to start a war with Russia in November 2015 after Turkiye supposedly shot down a Russian SU-24, he was rewarded with a coup attempt against him led by the CIA and US military out of the Incerlik airbase, by all accounts.

He was saved, apparently, by an early warning from Putin and ferried out to Iran to issue his counter-attack orders to the Turkish military on the night of the coup attempt.

This was the beginning of the end of Turkiye’s relationship with NATO and the US.

The road between Turkey and Russia to this point has been incredibly rocky. Putin has been exceedingly patient with Erdogan over a dozen issues, his back-pedaling and, at times, double-dealing.

But the reality is that, like him or not, every year since Russia’s move into Syria Erdogan has acted in his interest, creating leverage on the ground by taking territory in Syria, making outrageous claims against the Eastern Mediterranean, while playing the West and Russia against each other on NATO expansion, refugee policy, and his support of Azerbaijan and Ukraine.

War, sanctions, Germany: jan8 improtant breakdown on the ukraine-russia-germany situation: in rare interview since her 16 years chanceller of germany, angela merkel gives her opinion on ukraines minks agreement, surprising commentators by saying that the 2014 minsk agreements were just meant to buy timne for ukraine to arm themselves for an eventually war

Merkel, who was also leader of the Christian Democratic Union (CDU), has made few public statements since she was replaced as chancellor by Olaf Scholz (Social Democratic Party, SPD) a year ago, after sixteen years in office. The extensive interview published by *Die Zeit* on December 7 is a rare exception.

According to former German Chancellor Angela Merkel, the Minsk agreement served to buy time to rearm Ukraine. “The 2014 Minsk agreement was an attempt to give Ukraine time,” Merkel told the weekly *Die Zeit*. “It also used this time to become stronger, as you can see today.”

Behind the scenes, however, Merkel remains politically active. In her office, to which she is entitled as a former chancellor, she employs nine people, four more than approved—an office manager, a deputy manager, two desk officers, three clerks and two drivers. She maintains regular contact with Scholz, as he himself has reported. She had already cultivated a good relationship with him when he was still finance minister in the grand coalition government.

All the more remarkable is her admission that the Minsk agreement served to buy time for Ukraine’s rearmament. “It was clear to all of us that this was a frozen conflict, that the problem had not been solved, but that is precisely what gave Ukraine valuable time,” Merkel told *Die Zeit*.

Previously, the Minsk agreement, which Merkel signed together with then-French President François Hollande, Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko and Russian President Vladimir Putin in September 2014, had been portrayed as an effort towards peace that the Russian president had allegedly later thwarted.

Now, Merkel confirms that NATO wanted war from the start but needed time to prepare militarily—an assessment WSWS has long held.

Since the dissolution of the Soviet Union in 1991, the US has pursued the goal of remaining the “sole world power.” To this end, Washington has waged numerous criminal wars and expanded NATO into Eastern Europe. Now it also wants to integrate Ukraine, Georgia and other former Soviet republics into NATO and subjugate Russia in order to plunder its resources and isolate China.

Under these circumstances, Merkel and Hollande organized the Minsk agreement—as Merkel now admits—to freeze the conflict and buy time. The agreement included a cease-fire, the withdrawal of heavy weapons, and the establishment of a security zone, monitored by the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE). The Ukrainian government pledged to amend the constitution to allow special status for Donetsk and Luhansk and grant them greater autonomy.

NATO used the “valuable time” (Merkel) gained by this terror to rebuild, arm to the teeth, and train the Ukrainian armed forces. For example, according to a British parliamentary report, the British Army has trained and equipped Ukrainian soldiers since 2014. Ukraine has not formally become part of NATO but is doing so in practice.

Russia’s decision to take military action against Ukraine was the predictable—and intended—reaction to this NATO offensive. That does not make it any less reactionary. The Putin regime represents the interests of the Russian oligarchs who looted the Soviet Union’s socialised property and are at war with the Russian working class.

Since the beginning of the war, they have been flooding Ukraine with state-of-the-art weaponry. They provide logistical support, determine attack targets, direct the fighting, and operate secretly in Ukraine with their own elite troops. They stifle any attempt at a negotiated solution. In reality, NATO has long been waging a war against the nuclear power Russia, risking the nuclear annihilation of mankind.

War, sanctions: jan7 “Cuba, Nicaragua and now Bolivia are the countries that deny me entry." says Víctor González, a right-wing lawmaker from the Spanish party Vox

The Civic Committee of Santa Cruz invited González and Sánchez to Bolivia to get a first-hand look at the situation following the detention of Camacho.

A judge on Friday ordered four months of pre-trial detention for Camacho after prosecutors alleged the governor in 2019 orchestrated what they describe as a coup while leading mass protests following elections that the Organization of American States said were marred by fraud. The unrest resulted in 37 deaths.

The opposition, which characterizes Camacho’s detention as a “kidnapping,” has long disputed the government’s characterization of the 2019 unrest as a coup. It argues that the events were legitimate political protests that led to the resignation of then-President Evo Morales.

Camacho’s detention has sparked protests and clashes with law enforcement. Leaders in Santa Cruz, the country’s wealthy agribusiness

center that is widely considered to be Bolivia's economic engine, have called for a blockade to prevent goods from reaching the rest of the country.

Media, censorship, stats: jan7 Woman charged with repeatedly poisoning her veteranarian husband

https://apnews.com/article/crime-wisconsin-homicide-4600a5916f5becd5442ac2871c0e0a06

censorship, middle east, islam: jan7 Saudi Arabia jails two Wikipedia staff in 'bid to control content'

https://www.theguardian.com/technology/2023/jan/05/saudi-arabia-jails-two-wikipedia-staff-in-bid-to-control-content

stats, middle east, war, iran: Much of Iraq's current leadership consists of Iran-aligned politicians, according to al-monitor

Erdogan, war: conversationTurkish embassy requests U.S. government use name "Republic of Turkiye" in communications in place of Turkey...

Turkey asked last year for its name to be changed to Turkiye in international forums and most, including the United Nations and NATO, had switched to the new spelling.

The State Department, however, does not often change its style on the names of foreign countries and, in at least one notable case, has refused to do so for decades.

The U.S. still refuses to refer to Burma as Myanmar although the country's military rulers formally adopted Myanmar in 1989.

The last two countries that the State Department renamed following requests by their governments were North Macedonia, which changed its name from Macedonia in 2019, and Eswatini, which changed its name from Swaziland a year earlier.

Tech, stats: read later: Most Important Science Headlines Of 2022

https://www.visualcapitalist.com/science-headlines-of-2022

middle east, war, markets: taliban signs first major deal since taking power in 2021 after what has been called america's longest foreign occupation, agreeing to open the northern Afghanistan Amu Darya basin to China’s Xinjiang Central Asia Petroleum

War, stats: jan7 **exactly what looking for on bases; more on bases, basically**

A new Quincy Institute study by American University’s David Vine and World Beyond War’s Patterson Deppen and Leah

Bolger details the global US military presence. Washington has nearly three times as many bases as embassies and consulates. America also has three times as many installations as all other countries combined. The United Kingdom has 145. Russia two to three dozen. China five. Although the number of US facilities has fallen in half since the end of the Cold War, the number of nations hosting American bases has doubled. Washington is as willing to station forces in undemocratic as democratic countries.

The study figures the annual cost of this expansive base structure to be about $55 billion. Adding increased personnel expenses takes the total up to $80 billion. Wealthier countries, which needlessly enjoy what amounts to defense welfare, typically cover a portion of the cost through “host nation support.” Not so Washington’s newest clients. Indeed, through the Global War on Terror over the last two decades the US military spent as much as $100 billion on new construction, mostly in countries, like Iraq and Afghanistan, which were financial black holes.

750 Bases in 80 Countries Is Too Many for Any Nation: Time for the US to Bring Its Troops Home

Ending US security guarantees and avoiding fights not America’s own would allow Washington to shutter many existing military facilities.

OCTOBER 4, 2021 • COMMENTARY

By Doug Bandow

SHARE

This article appeared in *Antiwar.com* on October 4, 2021.

TOP

President Joe Biden did what his three predecessors could or would not: halt a seemingly endless war. It took two decades, but American troops no longer are fighting in Afghanistan.

An important aspect of the US withdrawal was closing Washington's bases, which once spread across the country. Uncle Sam left Bagram Air Base, America's biggest facility in Afghanistan, on his way home.

However, some 750 American military facilities remain open in 80 nations and territories around the world. No other country in human history has had such a dominant presence. Great Britain was the leading colonial power, but its army was small. London had to supplement its own troops with foreign mercenaries, as in the American Revolution. In wars with great powers Britain provided its allies with financial subsidies rather than soldiers.

Previous empires, such as Rome, Persia, and China, were powerful in their own realms but had little reach beyond. The latter never reached outside Asia. Persia was twice halted by the Greek city states. As great as Rome became, its writ never went much beyond the Mediterranean, with Central Europe, North Africa, and the Mideast its boundaries. The New World remained beyond the knowledge let alone control of all three.

Ending US security guarantees and avoiding fights not America's own would allow Washington to shutter many existing military facilities.

A new Quincy Institute study by American University's David Vine and World Beyond War's Patterson Deppen and Leah Bolger details the global US military presence. Washington has nearly three times as many bases as embassies and consulates. America also has three times as many installations as all other countries combined. The United Kingdom has 145. Russia two to three dozen. China five. Although the number of US facilities has fallen in half since the end of the Cold War, the number of nations hosting American bases has doubled. Washington is as willing to station forces in undemocratic as democratic countries.

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Although American bases face intense local opposition in some areas, such as Okinawa, facilities are seen as welcome money-makers in others. When President Donald Trump proposed pulling US forces out of Germany many locals' greatest concern was economic. Indeed, the whining of local politicians who saw America's presence as a financial rather than security issue was loud enough to heard across "the Pond." Not only did they believe that Americans owed them military protection. In their view Americans also had a duty *to bolster their economies*.

However, the price of Washington's globe-spanning is more than economic. Explained Vine, et al.: "These bases are costly in a number of ways: financially, politically, socially, and environmentally. US bases in foreign lands often raise geopolitical tensions, support undemocratic regimes, and serve as a recruiting tool for militant groups opposed to the US presence and the governments its presence bolsters. In other cases, foreign bases are being used and have made it easier for the United States to launch and execute disastrous wars, including those in Afghanistan, Iraq, Yemen, Somalia, and Libya."

Perhaps the most expensive installations were those established in Saudi Arabia after the first Gulf War. By renting out members of the US military as bodyguards for the Saudi royals Washington underwrote one of the most vile dictatorships in existence, a veritable totalitarian state with no political, religious, or social liberty. Although Crown Prince Mohammed "Slice & Dice" bin Salman, responsible for the murder and dismemberment of Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi three years ago, has loosened some social strictures, he has greatly tightened political controls.

Worse from a foreign policy standpoint, America's presence is one of the grievances which motivated Osama bin Laden to target the US Then Deputy Defense Secretary Paul Wolfowitz admitted in February 2003, before the invasion of Iraq, that America's regional presence had cost "far more than money." US bombing of Iraq and US troops in Saudi Arabia had "been Osama bin Laden's principal recruiting device." After the planned invasion, he added: "I can't imagine anyone here wanting to … be there for another 12 years to continue helping recruit terrorists."

Perhaps the most serious price of endless bases has been endless wars. Obviously, causation is complex. However, going to war usually leads to creation of new facilities. Such installations encourage a continuing military presence. Existence of nearby bases reduces the marginal cost of intervening and increases the maximal temptation to make new commitments, meddle in local controversies, and enter nearby conflicts. Observed the Quincy study: "Since 1980, US bases in the greater Middle East have been used at least 25 times to launch wars or other combat actions in at least 15 countries in that region alone. Since 2001, the US military has been involved in combat in at least 25 countries worldwide."

American military facilities also raise expectations of host and neighboring nations. After Iran attacked Saudi oil facilities in September 2019 the well-pampered Saudi royals expected US retaliation but were sorely disappointed. Although President Donald Trump was right to allow the Saudis to "fight their own wars," as he had tweeted five years before, America's military presence, which Trump had increased, encouraged Riyadh to expect more – and might have motivated a more conventional president to act.

Vine, et al. point to other costs as well. The Department of Defense is a terrible environmental actor. Although its practices have much improved in recent years, the accumulated damage is enormous. There also are questions about Washington's tendency to load up US territories, such as Guam, with military installations. Such areas are not exactly foreign, but the Quincy report contended that the heavy base presence "helped perpetuate their colonial relationship with the rest of the United States and their peoples' second class US citizenship."

Alas, DOD is less than forthcoming about the number of bases it maintains overseas. According to the report: “Until Fiscal Year 2018, the Pentagon produced and published an annual report in accordance with US law. Even when it produced this report, the Pentagon provided incomplete or inaccurate data, failing to document dozens of well-known installations. For example, the Pentagon has long claimed it has only one base in Africa – in Djibouti. But research shows that there are now around 40 installations of varying sizes on the continent; one military official acknowledged 46 installations in 2017.”

The Biden administration should make rationalizing the US base network a priority. Indeed, this should be an integral part of the Global Posture Review that the president announced in his February speech to State Department employees. He explained that Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin would lead the process “so that our military footprint is appropriately aligned with our foreign policy and national security priorities. It will be coordinated across all elements of our national security.”

The initial task should be publicly listing military installations and their purposes. Then facilities should be consolidated, even if doing so angers local politicians and communities. After all, this process should be relatively painless overseas, in contrast to domestic base closures, which inevitably trigger fevered local and congressional opposition.

The next step would be tougher but necessary. The administration should rethink the underlying commitments used to justify the bases. Europe has no need of a US military presence for defense: the continent enjoys an 11–1 economic advantage and more than 3–1 population edge over Russia. South Korea has a 55–1 economic and 2–1 population superiority over the North. The Mideast Gulf monarchies are well-armed and now working with Israel as well as each other. Washington’s presence in Iraq is unnecessary, since it and its neighbors could together confront any remaining threats from the Islamic State. America’s intervention in the Syrian civil war never made sense. The Marine Expeditionary Force stationed on Okinawa is tied to Korean rather than Chinese contingencies and America’s bases there unfairly burden the local population.

Ending US security guarantees and avoiding fights not America’s own would allow Washington to shutter many existing military facilities. Halting endless wars in the Mideast would diminish the importance of logistical nodes in Germany and elsewhere. In appropriate cases the US could replace its bases with emergency access to foreign facilities to deal with unexpected contingencies. In broad sweep Washington should move from frontline to reserve status around the world.

The international threat environment has changed dramatically since the end of World War II, yet America’s global network persists. The impact of the Soviet collapse and Warsaw Pact dissolution was too great not to have eliminated some US facilities, but otherwise the Pentagon has been reluctant to leave existing bases.

The only sure way to close a local installation, it seems, is to lose a war, as in Vietnam and Afghanistan. That needs to change. America no longer can afford to garrison the globe. The Biden administration should make the US into a normal country again. And that means no more imperial legions stationed around the world for purposes other than America’s defense.

War, middle east, stats: jan7 ## despite seeing an unprecedented six-month-long ceasefire and a significant drop in fatalities, Saudi Arabia-led international coalition destroys over 14,300 homes, 12 hospitals, 64 schools, and 22 power stations in Yemen in just 2022 according to Yemen-based Eye for Humanity Centre for Rights and Development

According to the Eye for Humanity report, in the last seven years of the Yemen war, **bombings** carried out by the Saudi-led coalition have killed **17,734 people** and injured close to 30,000. According to the data, at least 4,017 deaths were of children.

Health Minister Taha Moutawakil claimed last month that at least **"80 newborn babies die every day due to the lack of medical equipment and medicines"** amid the blockade imposed on Yemeni people.

The Saudi-led coalition has imposed **a comprehensive land, sea and air blockade of Yemen since 2015**, purportedly to prevent the supply of weapons. However, the blockade prevents the inflow of essential supplies including food and medicines to Yemen, which is heavily dependent on imports.

UNICEF issued a report last month claiming that around **11,000 Yemeni children have been either killed or maimed** due to the war in the country

Censorship, stats, government: jan7 ## it's an unelected beurocracy with literally no oversight. smart person breaks it down quickly and precisely

"While this may be the most egregious case of alleged corruption the European Parliament has seen in many years," explained Michiel van Hulten, director of Transparency International EU, "it is not an isolated incident."

"Over many decades, the Parliament has allowed a culture of impunity to develop, with a combination of lax financial rules and controls and a complete lack of independent (or indeed any) ethics oversight. In many ways it has become a law unto itself. Every serious attempt to improve accountability is blocked by the Parliament's ruling Bureau, with the acquiescence of a majority of MEPs. **The recent backroom deal approved by the Bureau to appoint a**

new EP Secretary-General is emblematic of an institution that thinks that rules for ethics and integrity should only apply to others.... As a first step, the European Commission should now publish its long-delayed proposal on the creation of an independent EU ethics body, with powers of investigation and enforcement."

This situation has been perfectly understood by Qatar, which published the following statement as soon as possible retaliatory measures were announced following discovery of the alleged corruption:

"The decision to impose... a discriminatory restriction that limits dialogue and cooperation on Qatar before the legal process has ended, will negatively affect regional and global security cooperation, as well as ongoing discussions around global energy poverty and security."

The blackmail is clear.

War, Russia, stats: jan7 About 4,000 members of the US Army’s 101st Airborne Division are still deployed in Romania as part of a military buildup in Eastern Europe that President Biden ordered last year; deployment marks the first time the 101st has been sent to Europe since World War II

The military buildup in Eastern Europe has brought US troop levels on the continent to **over 100,000 for the first time since**

MOLDOVA
UKRAINE
Odessa
Rostov-on-Don
ROMANIA
Sea of Azov
RUSSIA
Kerch
Constanta
Sevastopol
Novorossiysk
Yalta
BULGARIA
Varna
Black Sea
Sochi
Burgas
GEORGIA
Istanbul
Batumi
Zonguldak
Sea of Marmara
Samsun
Trabzon
TURKEY

POLAND
SLOVAKIA
UKRAINE
CARPATHIAN MOUNTAINS
HUNG.
Oradea
Cluj-Napoca
TRANSYLVANIA
Târgu-Mureş
Iaşi
MOL.
Bacău
Arad
Timişoara
Sibiu
Braşov
Moldoveanu
TRANSYLVANIAN ALPS
Galaţi
Brăila
Ploieşti
Tulcea
Piteşti
BUCHAREST
WALACHIA
SERBIA
Craiova
Constanţa
Danube
Giurgiu
Black Sea
BULGARIA
KOSOVO
0 50 100 km
0 50 100 mi

Stats, media: jan7 6-Year-Old Shoots Teacher At Virginia Elementary School

Censorship: jan7 Doctors shutdown on linkin for misinfo, allow back on after removal shown to be based on false pretenses/assumption

LinkedIn abruptly shut down mRNA vaccine pioneer-turned-critic Robert Malone's premium account in June 2021 when he mentioned the spike in the context of heart inflammation reports among young men. Malone later said a LinkedIn "senior executive" personally apologized for the wrongful removal.

these doctors could be part of the deception somehow. Never trust any MSM narrative. I still think they are going to release something worse when mistrust in government and covid vaccines reaches some kind of critical mass.

As you probably know, world-famous doctors and scientists and researchers like Dr. Robert Malone, Dr. Peter McCullough, Dr. Naomi Wolf, and Dr. Andrew Huff appear on my TV show regularly to explain the complete failure of the COVID vaccines and the dangers of mRNA shots — just in case you need to spoof the names of real doctors in the future.

Stats, censorship, tech, ai, government: jan7 read later, important: SCIENCE HAS BEEN BUREAUCRATIZED, AND BUREAUCRACIES AREN'T INNOVATIVE: Innovation in Science Is on The Decline And We're Not Sure Why.

While previous research has shown downturns in individual disciplines, the study is the first that "emphatically, convincingly documents this decline of disruptiveness across all major fields of science

and technology,” lead author Michael Park told AFP.

https://www.nature.com/articles/s41586-022-05543-x

history, health, vaccine, stats: In 1996, following an epidemic, Pfizer tested a new drug on 200 children in Muslim Nigeria. Eleven children died while others were disabled.

Following a meningitis epidemic in 1996, Pfizer conducted human trials of an experimental antibiotic on 200 children in the Muslim state of Kano in Northern Nigeria. Eleven children died and multiple children were disabled following the trials. In 2000, a reporter at The Washington Post published an exposé alleging Pfizer’s fault in the children’s deaths and for unethical medical trials. The news sent shockwaves throughout Nigeria, sparking a series of protests led by Muslim religious leaders alleging that Pfizer and “the West” were trying to kill Muslims with medicines and calling for boycotts of vaccinations among Muslims. The subsequent reduction in routine child vaccination among Muslim mothers set back global polio eradication efforts by over a decade; negative effects lasted for up to 12 years after the initial disclosure. The event provides evidence to study the effects of negative news about vaccination on vaccine hesitancy and noncompliance.

Stats, journal, vaccine, history: the bextra story for the early 2000's, at the time the largest pharma settlement in history, seems connected to the pharma sales culture of get rich or die tryin attitude that existed at that time. Back then, and probably still today, pharmacuetical sales was MASSIVE MONEY, and they were known for being shady as fuck

On September 2, 2009, the United States Department of Justice fined Pfizer $2.3 billion after one of its subsidiaries, Pharmacia & Upjohn Company, pleaded guilty to marketing four drugs including Bextra "with the intent to defraud or mislead."[9] Pharmacia & Upjohn admitted to criminal conduct in the promotion of Bextra, and agreed to pay the largest criminal fine ever imposed in the United States for any matter, $1.195 billion.[10] A former Pfizer district sales manager was indicted and sentenced to home confinement for destroying documents regarding the illegal promotion of Bextra.[11][12] In addition, a Regional Manager pleaded guilty to distribution of a mis-branded product, and was fined $75,000 and twenty-four months on probation.[13]

The remaining $1 billion of the fine was paid to resolve allegations under the civil False Claims Act case and is the largest civil fraud settlement against a pharmaceutical company. Six whistle-blowers were awarded more than $102 million for their role in the investigation.[14] Former Pfizer sales representative John Kopchinski acted as a qui tam relator and filed a complaint in 2004 outlining the illegal conduct in the marketing of Bextra.[15] Kopchinski was awarded $51.5 million for his role in the case because the improper marketing of Bextra was the largest piece of the settlement at $1.8 billion.[16]

Vaccine, censorship: jan7 January 6, 2023Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority finally lifts vaccine mandate requiring all of it's 6000 workers to be vaccinated in order to keep their jobs; 8 employees who refused the vaccine offered chance to get jobs back..

MBTA to rehire unvaccinated workers after rescinding policy

Media, stats: hilarious example of school violence in America..

BOSTON CITY COUNCIL

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city.council@boston.gov

One City Hall Square ◊ 5th Floor ◊ Boston, MA 02201 ◊ Phone: (617) 635-3040 ◊ Fax: (617) 635-4203

January 6, 2022

Dear Mayor Wu,

Our Boston Public Schools should be a sanctuary for our students, a place where families feel safe to send their children and teachers feel safe to go to work. No student should ever be placed in a situation where they fear for their safety or are sexually threatened. Last year's audit of Boston Public Schools, by the state Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, reported that the BPS system does not support the physical, social, and emotional well-being of all students and does not ensure a safe environment for all students and staff. DESE found that the district's system for managing and responding to these incidents is not responsive to parent and guardian concerns. This has led to many not believing that BPS prioritizes all students' physical, social, and emotional well-being and safety.

Although the school system has promised to communicate more openly when incidents happen, and make bold changes to ensure that our students and staff are safe at school, this school year has not been much different. During the 2021-2022 school year, there were 440 reported incidents of bullying and 744 sexual assaults reported. There have been many disturbing incidents at our schools, and on our school buses this school year. Stabbings, gun shots, bullying, physical attacks, loaded guns and sexual assaults have been happening across the City. The first day back from winter break a teacher at Young Achievers was walking a student home who was afraid for her safety. Once outside the building they were jumped by three girls who repeatedly punched them, and as the teacher shielded the student with her body she was kicked repeatedly. After receiving several blows to the head and face the teacher and student were transported to the hospital. Reports like these are very disturbing.

With all the recent, tragic incidents in schools nationally, it's clear that sensible, timely communication regarding dangerous school situations is more important than ever. Now is the time for law enforcement and BPS to cooperate, rather than alienate. We understand that there are differing opinions around the role of police officers in our schools, but there should be no question among City and State Education Officials about returning non-invasive technology such as metal detectors, and having police officers present in our schools. We hope you will agree that we need School Police to be reinstated into our Boston Public School buildings for the safety of our students, our staff and all of our BPS families.

Sincerely,

Erin J. Murphy
Boston City Councilor
At Large

President Ed Flynn
Boston City Councilor
D2

Michael Flaherty
Boston City Councilor
At Large

Frank Baker
Boston City Councilor D3

https://twitter.com/ErinforBoston/status/1611476972076507136

government: jan7 21 holdouts force House of Representatives to 10th speaker ballot for first time since 1859, McCarthy receives 200 votes, leaving him 17 short of the 217 necessary for him to become Speaker of the House; All 212 Democrats support incoming House Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries of New York; some representative in republican party joking refering to republican holds as "terrorists"

inflation: french small business with 190 employees and 9 factories to scale down 80% due to inflation jan7

40 million euros of energy bill

Cofigeo is caught between two fires. Its first problem is energy, which should cost it ten times more. Next year, the bill should increase from four to 40 million euros. According to information from Europe 1, this soaring price should only entitle it to modest state aid, as the company is not considered to consume enough energy.

Rising raw material costs

The other problem is the rising cost of raw materials such as the price of durum wheat or tomatoes which are difficult to pass on to selling prices.

Stats, vaccine, health: jan7 look into if this is real or not: "Myocarditis Was 4 cases per Million, Now 25K Per Million?!"

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Peter_A._McCullough

https://twitter.com/cuttheshite/status/1611046072864112641

Myocarditis Was 4 cases per Million, Now 25K Per Million?!

January 6, 2023 8:35 pm by IWB

Sharing is Caring!

by Chris Black

WHAT????
That's 1 in 40 FYI.
twitter.com/cuttheshite/status/1611046072864112641
>it's safe and effective!

>okay it doesn't stop infection but it stops transmission!
>okay it doesn't stop transmission but it keeps you from getting sick!
>okay you still get sick but it's not as bad as non-jabbed getting sick!
>okay there are some people having side effects but it's extremely rare and not serious
>okay some of those side effects are irreversible heart damage but it's very rare
okay the irreversible heart damage is not that rare but if we present it like this it doesn't look as bad

stats, markets, energy: jan6 **we export 128 billion worth of petroleum products to the united states**
https://energy-information.canada.ca/en/indicators

markets, energy, inflation, government, war, sanctions: jan6

The natural gas market began the new year with very strong production and low demand, relative to normal weather. Production quickly recovered from the Christmas freeze-offs and is back near 99-100 Bcf/d, while demand has fallen through the floor amid above-normal temps across much of the country that are expected to last through the next two weeks.

The EU has imposed unprecedented sanctions against Russia in response to the **unprovoked and unjustified invasion of Ukraine** on 24 February 2022 and the illegal annexation of Ukraine's Donetsk, Luhansk, Zaporizhzhia and Kherson regions.

They add to existing measures imposed on Russia since 2014 following the annexation of Crimea and the non-implementation of the Minsk agreements.

What goods cannot be imported from Russia to the EU?

- **crude oil** (from December 2022) **and refined petroleum products** (from February 2023), with limited exceptions

  As the majority of the Russian oil delivered to the EU is seaborne, these **restrictions will cover nearly 90% of Russian oil imports to Europe** by the end of 2022. This will significantly reduce Russia’s trade profits.

The EU has also adopted sanctions against:

- **Belarus**, in response to its involvement in the invasion of Ukraine
- **Iran**, in relation to the use of Iranian drones in the Russian aggression against Ukraine

EU leaders stressed at the European Council on 23-24 June 2022 that **Russia is solely responsible for the global food crisis** and that EU sanctions do not target food and agricultural products. Food security and affordability are a key priority for the EU and its member states.

In total, also taking into account earlier individual sanctions imposed after the annexation of Crimea in 2014, the EU has sanctioned 1386 individuals and 171 entities.

What goods cannot be exported to Russia from the EU?

The list of sanctioned products includes among others:

- cutting-edge **technology** (e.g. quantum computers and advanced semiconductors, high-end electronics and software)
- certain types of machinery and **transportation** equipment
- specific goods and technology needed for **oil refining**
- **energy** industry equipment, technology and services
- **aviation and space industry** goods and technology (e.g. aircraft, aircraft engines, spare parts or any kind of equipment for planes and helicopters, jet fuel)
- **maritime navigation** goods and radio communication technology
- a number of **dual-use goods** (goods that could be used for both civil and military purposes), such as drones and software for drones or encryption devices
- **luxury goods** (e.g. luxury cars, watches, jewellery)
- civilian firearms and other army materiel

What goods cannot be imported from Russia to the EU?

The list of sanctioned products includes among others:

- **crude oil** (from December 2022) **and refined petroleum products** (from February 2023), with limited exceptions
- **coal** and other solid fossil fuels
- **steel**, steel products and iron
- **gold**, including jewellery
- cement, wood, paper and plastics
- seafood and liquor (e.g. caviar, vodka)
- cigarettes and cosmetics

In addition, the EU **banned the export to Russia of goods and technology in the aviation and space industry**. **three-quarters of Russia's current commercial air fleet were produced in the EU, the US or Canada**

EU has **closed its ports to Russia's entire merchant fleet** of over 2 800 vessels

The EU has **prohibited the maritime transport of Russian crude oil** (from 5 December 2022) **and petroleum products** (from 5 February 2023) to third countries. It has also prohibited the related provision of technical assistance, brokering services or financing or financial assistance. This ban doesn't apply if the crude oil or petroleum products are purchased at or below the oil price cap.

Won't give Russia's foreign currency reserves back if they are in a central bank that is located in the european union

The European Union has **prohibited all transactions with the National Central Bank of Russia** related to the management of the Russian Central Bank's reserves and assets. As a result of the central bank asset freeze, the central bank can no longer access the assets it has stored in central banks and private institutions in the EU.

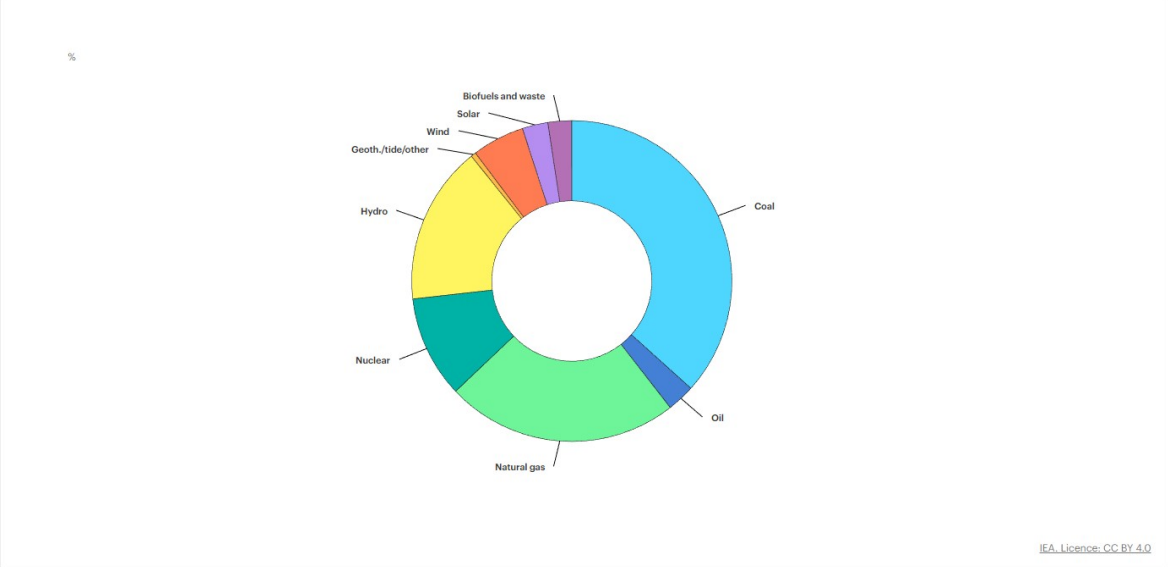
In December 2022, the EU added the Russian Regional Development Bank to the list of Russian state-owned or controlled entities that are subject to a full transaction ban.

In February 2022, Russia’s international reserves accounted for $643 billion (€579 billion). Among other purposes, having reserves in foreign currencies helps keep the exchange rate of a country’s own currency stable.

Due to the ban on transactions from the EU and other countries, **it is estimated that more than half of Russian reserves are frozen**. The ban was also imposed by other countries (such as the US, Canada and the UK) which also store a share of Russia’s foreign reserves.

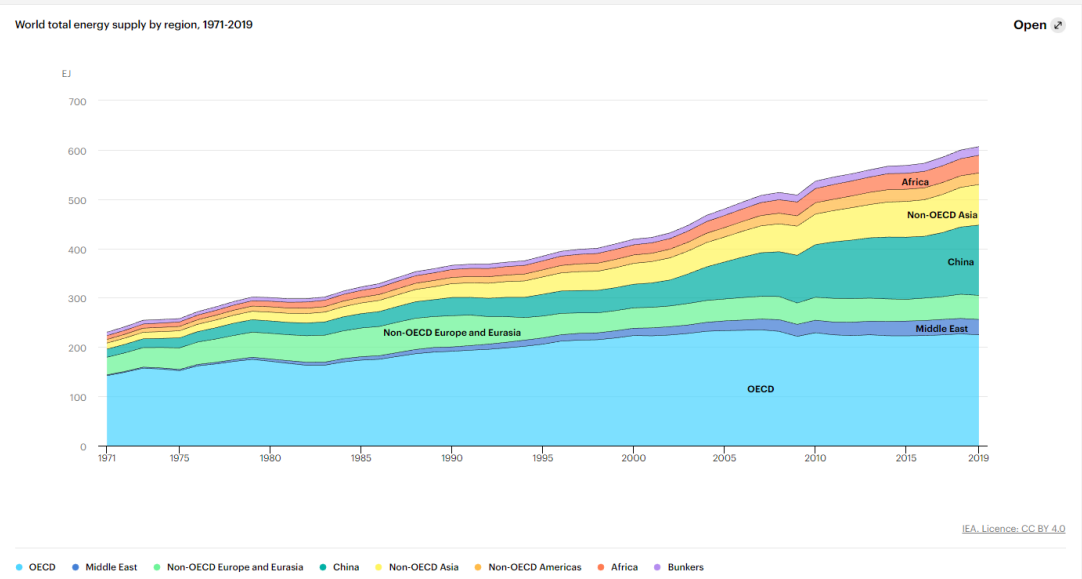
Consequently, Russia cannot use this cushion of foreign assets to provide funds to its banks and thus limit the effects of other sanctions. Even the gold reserves stored in Russia now appear to be more difficult to sell due to international sanctions affecting Russian entities.

Sanctions, Russia, war, energy: jan6 finland



https://www.iea.org/data-and-statistics/charts/world-gross-electricity-production-by-source-2019

World total energy supply by region



https://www.iea.org/reports/key-world-energy-statistics-2021/supply

The delays in the construction of the third reactor at the Olkiluoto Nuclear Power Plant (est. 1,600 MWe when completed), which was projected to be operating commercially by 2010 but is now being estimated to be completed no earlier than 2022, have caused a significant domestic energy production deficit. A consortium of Finnish industry and power companies called Fennovoima has applied and been granted a permission to build another new nuclear power plant, delivered by Russia's Rosatom, which also has a 1/3 stake on the power plant. This has caused some concern among observers about Russia being able to manipulate Nordic electricity prices or use the power plant as a leverage in conflict situations. The plant was estimated to be operational by 2024 and projected to produce 1,200 MW of electricity, but all work was stopped in 2022 due to the Russian invasion of Ukraine.[29]

The Finnish Security Intelligence Service (Supo) indicated in 2016 that foreign intelligence activity in Finland was aimed at influencing decision-making in energy policy.[30]

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Electricity_sector_in_Finland
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hanhikivi_Nuclear_Power_Plant

middle east, war, stats: [Updated 7:10 AM EDT, Fri April 14, 2017] US drops largest non-nuclear bomb in Afghanistan; the first time the bomb has been used since it was first developed 15 years ago

WashingtonCNN —

The US military dropped America’s most powerful non-nuclear bomb on ISIS targets in Afghanistan Thursday, the first time this type of weapon has been used in battle, according to US officials.

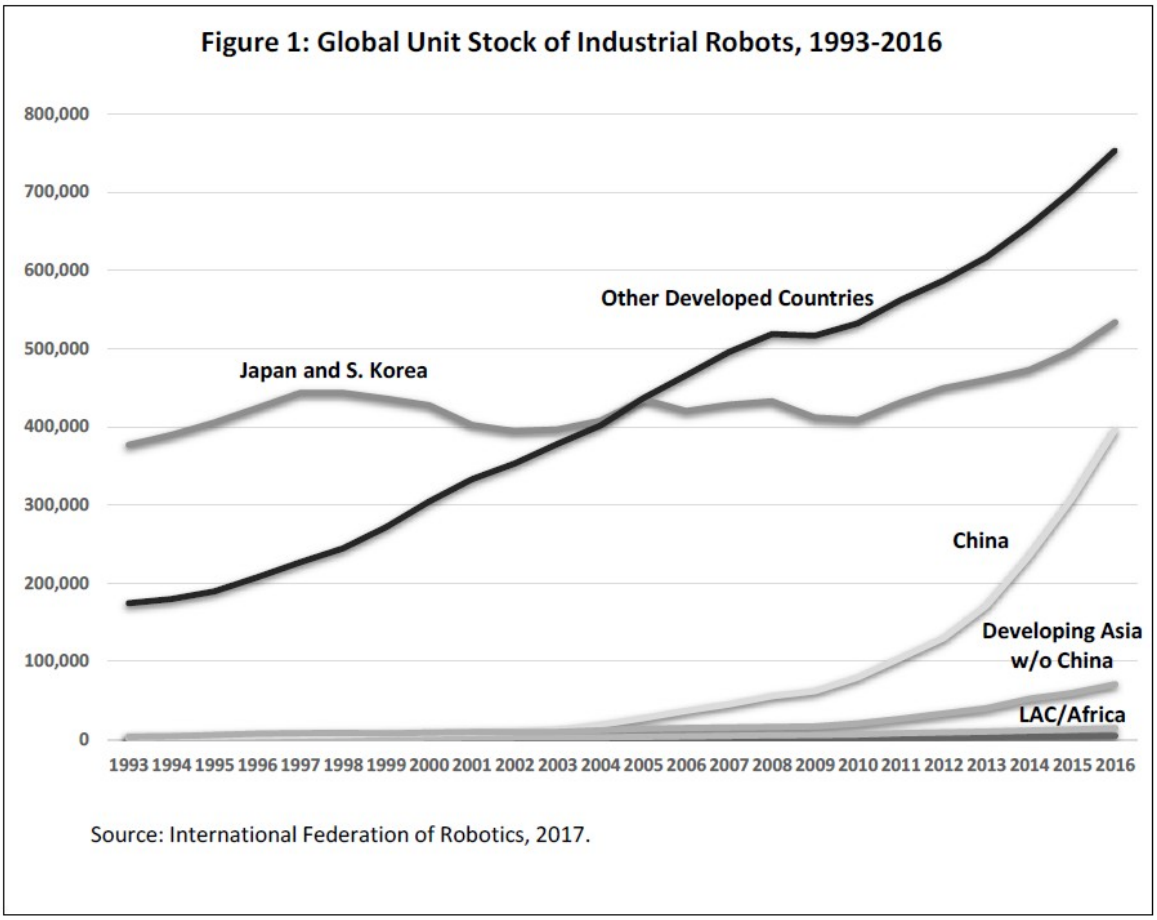
A GBU-43/B Massive Ordnance Air Blast Bomb (MOAB), nicknamed the “mother of all bombs,” was dropped at 7:32 p.m. local time, according to four US military officials with direct knowledge of the mission.

cnndotcom/2017/04/13/politics/afghanistan-isis-moab-bomb/index.html

stats, tech, government, china, ai: **what i was looking for: "AUTOMATION, EMPLOYMENT, AND RESHORING - ILO", April, 2020**

ina: jan5

The purported risk of potential
automation by computer-controlled equipment in the next ten years or so is 99% for hand sewers, 89% for sewing machine operators, and 95% for electrical and electronic equipment assemblers. These figures are high because the occupations are classified as being comprised largely of routine work that is judged to be more amenable to automation. Since developing countries have much higher shares of such occupations than developed countries, the method inevitably yields the result that the country-wide share of jobs at high risk (70% or greater) of potential automation is considerably higher in developing than developed countries.



For 2015, apparel exports for the European Union (EU) totaled $112 billion—second only to China—compared to $6 billion for the United States. The much larger volume of exports from the European Union 28 than the United States is striking, suggesting that EU producers have been much better at holding their own in global markets than their counterparts in the United States.6 Yet employment has dropped sharply in both the EU and the United States since 2000: by 42% in the former and 66% in the latter. While in 2000, the European Union 28 and United States accounted for 30% of employment in the industry among these ten exporters, this plummeted to just 9% around 2015, a massive compositional shift in employment in such a short span of time.

Table 1: Exports and Formal Employees in Top 10 Apparel Exporters

	Exports, 2015 US$, billions	Formal employees, 2000[1]	Formal employees, around 2015[2]
China	175	3,284,000	7,661,200
Bangladesh	26	1,037,310	2,827,468
Vietnam	22	511,364	2,314,288
Hong Kong, China	18	28,200	11,650
India	18	469,195	1,342,454
Turkey	15	164,212	563,593
Indonesia	7	761,183	787,782
Cambodia	6	203,612	N/A
Total: Developing	287	6,459,076	15,508,435
EU 28	112	2,279,365	1,314,928
US	6	498,472	167,223
Total: Developed	118	2,777,837	1,482,151

Sources: WTO, World Trade Statistical Review, 2016; Refers to SITC 84: Articles of apparel and clothing accessories, and does not include footwear.
UNIDO, INDSTAT2, 2017: Refers to ISIC (rev. 4) 14 and 15: Wearing apparel, fur, leather, leather products and footwear.
Note 1: Bangladesh, 1998.
Note 2: China, 2014; Bangladesh, 2011; Vietnam, 2014; Hong Kong, China, 2015; India, 2015; Turkey, 2015; Indonesia, 2015; EU 28, 2015, except Ireland, 2012; Malta, 2011; Slovenia, 2014; US, 2015.

Stats, ai, tech: jan5 Google's Medical AI Detects Lung Cancer With 94% Accuracy

"The whole experimentation process is like a student in school," said Tse. "We're using a large data set for training, giving it lessons and pop quizzes so it can begin to learn for itself what is cancer, and what will or will not be cancer in the future. We gave it a final exam on data it's never seen after we spent a lot of time training, and the result we saw on final exam — it got an A."

https://interestingengineering.com/innovation/googles-medical-ai-detects-lung-cancer-with-94-accuracy

tech, ai, stats: The first fully-functional prototype of the ASKA A5 electric drive and fly Vertical Takeoff and Landing (eVTOL) vehicle was introduced at CES 2023, ASKA A5 is the size of an SUV and the world's first four-seater electric vehicle that can travel by road and up to 250 miles by air on a single charge.

https://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/aska-unveils-worlds-first-drive--fly-evtol---aska-a5-at-ces-2023-las-vegas-301713240.html

stats: In the U.S. alone, there are around 15,000 airfields with runways

https://interestingengineering.com/innovation/this-evtol-size-of-an-suv

tech, ai, stats: cool website for 3-d printers: https://3dprintingindustry.com/

journal: nice way to introduce a topic from an interesting engineering article.

How is the Ability Hand built? What is the science and engineering behind it? What can its wearer accomplish? How flame-resistant is it? This video answers all these questions and gives a live demonstration of the hand in action.

War, Erdogan: jan5 PKK's armed defense force, the HPG, claims to have killed 2900 turkish soldiers in 2022

The People’s Defense Forces (HPG), the armed wing of the PKK, claimed that 2,942 Turkish soldiers were killed and 408 injured during their attacks against the Turkish

The YPG is the backbone of the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF), a mostly-Kurdish force in Syria that fought the lion’s

share of the battle against the Islamic State (ISIS) and ultimately territorially defeated the terror group in 2019.

More than 500 villages have been emptied in the Kurdistan Region over three decades of the Turkey-PKK conflict.

rudawdotnet/english/middleeast/04012023

war, stats, islam: jan5 Myanmar's military honours Wirathu, leader of the extremist anti-muslim 969 Movement, frees prisoners

The monk, Wirathu, was awarded the honorific "Thiri Pyanchi" title for his "outstanding work for the good of the Union of Myanmar", the military's information team said on Tuesday, ahead of the country's independence day celebrations.

He has called for boycotts of Muslim-owned businesses and restrictions on marriages between Buddhists and Muslims.

Human rights groups have accused Wirathu of helping to whip up animosity towards the Rohingya community, laying the foundations for a military operation in 2017 that forced an estimated 740,000 Rohingya to flee over the border to Bangladesh.

Myanmar has been in chaos since the military's coup in February 2021 saw the democratically elected government of Aung San Suu Kyi and her detention along with other key officials. The military has also responded to pro-democracy protests and dissent with deadly force, imprisoning thousands and fighting a growing conflict with an anti-coup movement that has resulted in hundreds of thousands of people displaced.

The UN Security Council last month adopted its first resolution on Myanmar in 74 years, demanding an end to violence in the country and for the military regime to free all political detainees. China and Russia abstained from the security council resolution, as did India.

Canada, the European Union, the UK and the US are among those who have imposed sanctions on Myanmar's military and individuals deemed to have assisted the regime.

Censorship, islam, iran: jan5 iran pissed off about french cartoonist's latest edition making fun of their Ayatolla

The weekly had published dozens of cartoons ridiculing the highest religious and political figure in the Islamic republic as part of a competition it launched in December in support of the three-month-old protest movement.

"The insulting and indecent act of a French publication in publishing cartoons against the religious and political authority will not go without an effective and decisive response," tweeted Iran's Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian.

Media, markets, censorship: they try to make it about him..

As for Citadel Securities, regular readers are quite familiar with it (not lease because of their threat to sue Zerohedge for suggesting it was frontrunning client orderflow just days before securities regulator FINRA accused it of doing just that) as a global market-making operation that handles more than 20% of the shares that change hands in U.S. stock markets each day. The business, which also trades futures, options, Treasuries and currencies, benefits from increased volumes and volatility, as well as reduced liquidity allowing it to pocket huge bid/ask spreads and prosper even when markets fall.

To be sure, most other hedge funds have had a rougher year. As we noted yesterday, Goldman told its prime-brokerage clients that hedge funds betting on and against stocks lost an average 12.9% for the year, on an asset-weighted basis, while the S&P 500 lost about 18% including dividends.

	MSCI TR	Fundamental L/S (Weighted Average)			Systematic L/S (Weighted Average)		
		Total	Beta	Alpha	Total	Beta	Alpha
Dec '22	**-4.25%**	**0.39%**	**-2.25%**	**2.64%**	0.58%	0.23%	0.35%
Nov '22	6.95%	3.93%	3.51%	0.42%	-0.28%	0.09%	-0.37%
Oct '22	7.18%	1.40%	1.78%	-0.38%	0.47%	0.72%	-0.25%
Q4 '22	**9.77%**	**5.73%**	**3.05%**	**2.68%**	0.77%	1.04%	-0.27%
Q3 '22	-6.19%	-0.97%	-1.57%	0.60%	1.02%	-1.97%	2.99%
Q2 '22	-16.19%	-8.53%	-6.09%	-2.44%	4.28%	-0.65%	4.94%
Q1 '22	-5.15%	-9.11%	-3.08%	-6.03%	9.72%	-0.43%	10.15%
2022	**-18.14%**	**-12.88%**	**-7.70%**	**-5.19%**	15.79%	-2.01%	17.80%
2021	21.82%	0.62%	12.32%	-11.70%	23.65%	-0.94%	24.59%
2020	15.90%	22.53%	15.64%	6.89%	-3.18%	-1.48%	-1.70%

	Fundamental L/S Total Returns		
	Weighted Avg	Simple Avg	Median
Dec '22	**0.4%**	**0.1%**	**-0.1%**
2022	**-12.9%**	**-2.0%**	**-4.0%**

Citadel's flagship multi-strategy fund, Wellington, returned 38.1% by contrast. Previous reports from the WSJ revealed that commodities made up more than 60% of the second-quarter gross investment gains for Wellington.

But even more remarkably, **all of Citadel's five strategies—fixed income and macro, commodities, equities, quant and credit—were profitable for the year,** according to WSJ sources. That was evident in the returns of its three other hedge funds, which notched gains of more than 20%. One of the funds, Citadel Equities, was up 21.4% for the year. Unable to keep up with its newfound wealth, Citadel returned about $8.5 billion in profits to its investors Dec. 31, up from the $7 billion it earlier expected.

Rivals Millennium Management and Point72 Asset Management gained 12.4% and 11.8% for the year, respectively. D.E. Shaw Group's flagship multi-strategy fund, Composite, returned about 24.7%.

Censorship, war, Africa: **this is how it goes in other parts of t he world: "Tanzania's President Hassan Ends Six-Year Ban on Opposition Rallies"; law forced bloggers, social media influencers and online platforms to apply for a licence and pay a one-time fee of $930 to keep their sites up.**

The ban was proscribed by former President John Magufuli in 2016 during his first term. Initially meant to apply to all political parties, critics said it targeted only the opposition.

In 2018, the Magafuli-led government passed a law forcing bloggers, social media influencers and online platforms

to apply for a licence and pay a one-time fee of $930 to keep their sites up.

Three years on, Hassan took office after the death of Magufuli who was nicknamed “The Bulldozer” by many who said he curbed free speech and targeted dissidents.

The incumbent president is constitutionally serving the remainder of Magufuli’s second five-year term, which ends in 2025.

Middle east, stats, markets, energy: Iraq Oil Revenues Top $115 Billion in 2022 jan5

Censorship, government, middle east: Jan5they just openly steal billions in USD in developing or wartorn countries. same hing happened in nigeria: they didn't even try to hide! They just stole th money, barely even tried to cover it up, then nobody got into trouble

Iraq said Tuesday it had recovered another $2.6 million in public funds fraudulently withdrawn from a government account, but the money is still only a fraction of the $2.5 billion that disappeared.

According to a document from the country's tax authority, the $2.5 billion was allegedly expropriated between September 2021 and August last year through 247 cheques cashed by five enterprises.

The money was subsequently withdrawn from the companies' accounts, the document showed.

The owners of those accounts -- most of whom are on the run -- are subject to arrest warrants.

In November, Sudani said Nour Zuhair Jassem, a wealthy businessman implicated in the theft from tax authorities, had given back part of more than $1 billion that he "confessed" to having received. Released on bail, the man has returned $211.6 million in several payments.

The top echelons of power routinely evade accountability in Iraqi corruption cases.

War, history: The Battle of Kashmir: Rebels in Indian-administered Kashmir have been fighting New Delhi’s rule since 1989; Indian officials said at least 172 suspected rebels and 26 armed forces personnel were killed in fighting last year; New Delhi regularly blames Pakistan for supporting the rebels, an allegation denied by Islamabad; in 2019, india removed Kashmir's partial autonomy status

The 2019 move – and subsequent laws and policies – have strengthened anti-India sentiments in the valley and led to a wave of attacks by suspected rebels against the region’s minority communities, mainly the Hindus.

Tens of thousands of civilians, rebels and government forces have been killed in the decades-old conflict.

India bars Kashmiri journalist Sanna Irshad Mattoo from flying to the united states to recieve her pulizter prize

The Kashmiri journalist was prevented from flying to the US to receive the prestigious Pulitzer Prize.
“This was a once-in-a-lifetime moment for me to go for receiving the Pulitzer Prize. But I was stopped without any reason. I am very heartbroken and disappointed.” Sanna told Al Jazeera.

The media is operating in a climate of fear, with the homes of several journalists raided and some summoned by police

for questioning – which observers describe as an attempt to silence the press from reporting about realities in the region.

The strategy appears to be working. Analysts said that the government's controversial orders are being overlooked by the media, while state-sponsored events promoting the administration's picture of Kashmir are covered on the front pages in local and national media.

The arrest of two journalists, Sajad Gul and Fahad Shah early this year under the controversial Public Safety Act (PSA), a law under which a person can be imprisoned for up to two years without a trial, has further frightened journalists. Both of them have been shifted to distant jails making it difficult for their families to reach them.

They were arrested for "spreading false narratives" and "glorifying terrorism".

Stats, middle east: conversationDheisheh Camp, 2018, refugee camp in palistine, population 8000

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dheisheh

Akram Shafout, 47, an activist from the camp, told Middle East Eye the night raid on Dheisheh camp started around four in the morning, sparking confrontations with local youths.

Shafout said that the raid began with special forces in civilian cars entering the camp, followed soon by “hundreds” of armed soldiers and a convoy of military vehicles.

Palestinian media said the army arrested one resident of the camp after raiding their home. During the raid, groups of local youth - reportedly including Ayyad - confronted the soldiers with rocks.

Israeli media reported Palestinians throwing Molotov cocktails and said one soldier was "lightly injured". Meanwhile, Israeli forces opened fire at several Palestinians, with the army reporting that "suspects were hit”.

“As the soldiers were pulling out of the camp they started to use live ammunition, and that is when Adam was killed," said Shafout.

"It was not the ‘violent riot’ that they [the Israeli army] described. These boys are throwing rocks at fully armoured vehicles. The soldiers' lives are not in danger.”

War, history, stats: jan5 1948 Arab–Israeli War: The 1948 (or First) Arab–Israeli War was the second and final stage of the 1948 Palestine war. It formally began following the end of the British Mandate for Palestine at midnight on 14 May 1948

-On 29 November 1947, the United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution recommending the adoption and implementation of a plan to partition the British Mandate of Palestine into two states, one Arab and one Jewish, and the City of Jerusalem.[31]

The General Assembly resolution on Partition was greeted with overwhelming joy in Jewish communities and widespread outrage in the Arab world. In Palestine, violence erupted almost immediately, feeding into a spiral of reprisals and counter-reprisals. The British refrained from intervening as tensions boiled over into a low-level conflict that quickly escalated into a full-scale civil war.[32][33][34][16][35][36]

-In 1948 more than 700,000 Palestinian Arabs – about half of prewar Palestine's Arab population – were expelled or fled from their homes,[1][2][3][4][5][6][7][8] during the 1948 Palestine war.[9] The exodus was a central component of the fracturing, dispossession and displacement of Palestinian society, known as the Nakba,[10][11] in which between 400 and 600 Palestinian villages were destroyed, village wells were poisoned in a biological warfare programme to prevent Palestinians returning,[12] and other sites subject to Hebraization of Palestinian place names,[13] and also refers to the wider period of war itself and the subsequent oppression up to the present day.[14]

-the 29 November 1947 adoption of the United Nations Partition Plan for Palestine – which planned to divide Palestine into an Arab state, a Jewish state, and the Special International Regime encompassing the cities of Jerusalem and Bethlehem

-On 15 May 1948, the civil war transformed into a conflict between Israel and the Arab states following the Israeli Declaration of Independence the previous day. Egypt, Transjordan, Syria, and expeditionary forces from Iraq entered Palestine.[18][19][20][21] The invading forces took control of the Arab areas and immediately attacked Israeli forces and several Jewish settlements.[22][23][24] The 10 months of fighting took place mostly on the territory of the British Mandate and in the Sinai Peninsula and southern Lebanon, interrupted by several truce periods.[25]

-As a result of the war, the State of Israel controlled the area that the UN had proposed for the Jewish state, as well as almost 60% of the area proposed for the Arab state, [26] including the Jaffa, Lydda and Ramle area, Upper Galilee, some parts of the Negev and a wide strip along the Tel Aviv–Jerusalem road. Israel also took control of West Jerusalem, which was meant to be part of an international zone for Jerusalem

and its environs. Transjordan took control of East Jerusalem and what became known as the West Bank, annexing it the following year, and the Egyptian military took control of the Gaza Strip. At the Jericho Conference on 1 December 1948, 2,000 Palestinian delegates called for unification of Palestine and Transjordan as a step toward full Arab unity.[27] The conflict triggered significant demographic change throughout the Middle East. Around 700,000 Palestinian Arabs fled or were expelled from their homes in the area that became Israel, and they became Palestinian refugees[28] in what they refer to as the Nakba ("the catastrophe"). A similar number of Jews moved to Israel during the three years following the war, including 260,000 from the surrounding Arab states.[29][30]

Arab forces

At the invasion: In addition to the local irregular Palestinian militia groups, the five Arab states that joined the war were Egypt, Transjordan, Syria, Lebanon and Iraq sending expeditionary forces of their regular armies. Additional contingents came from Saudi Arabia and Yemen. On the eve of the war, the available number of Arab troops likely to be committed to war was between 23,500 and 26,500 (10,000 Egyptians, 4,500 Jordanians, 3,000 Iraqis, 3,000–6,000 Syrians, 2,000 ALA volunteers, 1,000 Lebanese, and several hundred Saudis), in addition to the irregular Palestinians already present. Prior to the war, Arab forces had been trained by British and French instructors. This was particularly true of Jordan's Arab Legion under command of Lt Gen Sir John Glubb.[121]

Syria bought a quantity of small arms for the Arab Liberation Army from Czechoslovakia, but the shipment never arrived due to Haganah force intervention.[122]

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1948_Arab%E2%80%93Israeli_War

stats, church: Bethlaham, the biblical birthplace of Jesus, is located 777 meters above sea-level

censorship: jan5 read later: pizer corrupted logged and compiled by twitter user

investmentwatchblogdotcom/pfizer-twitter-user-puts-together-thread-chain-exposing-deep-levels-of-corruption/

censorship, tech, government: read later: apple breaking privacy rules again, apparently. too lazy to read it right now: "Apple Is Tracking You Even When Its Own Privacy Settings Say It’s Not, New Research Says"

https://twitter.com/mysk_co/status/1588308341780262912?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw%7Ctwcamp%5Etweetembed%7Ctwterm%5E1588308341780262912%7Ctwgr%5E4369c0cbf343e1f167598b910a48520dc2eb1020%7Ctwcon%5Es1_&ref_url=https

%3A%2F%2Fwww.globalresearch.ca%2Fapple-tracking-you-even-when-its-own-privacy-settings-say-its-not-new-research-says%2F5798653

https://gizmodo.com/apple-iphone-analytics-tracking-even-when-off-app-store-1849757558

stats, ads: jan5 Greenwashing also called "green sheen", is a form of advertising or marketing spin in which green PR and green marketing are deceptively used to persuade ...; 68% of U.S. execs admit their companies are guilty of greenwashing

inflation, housing, markets: jan5 Mortgage Applications Dropped To Lowest Since 1996 As Purchase Applications Drop -22.2% WoW, -38.5% 2WoW, -42% YoY (Refi Apps Down -87% YoY)

MBAVBAS 184.50 As Of 12/30
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Copyright 2023 Bloomberg Finance L.P.
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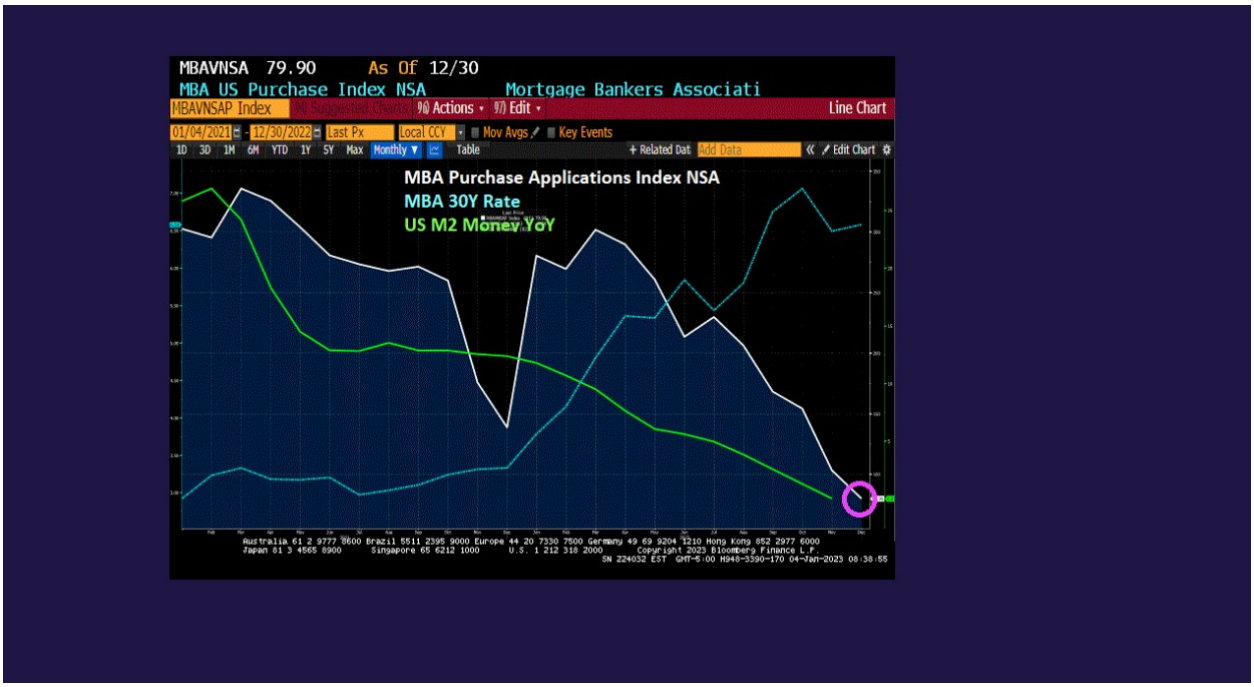
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Japan 81 3 4565 8900 Singapore 65 6212 1000 U.S. 1 212 318 2000
Copyright 2023 Bloomberg Finance L.P.
SN 224032 EST GMT-5:00 H948-3390-170 04-Jan-2023 08:38:55

History, stats, rome, government The Annona (grain dole) was begun under the instigation of the popularis politician Gaius Sempronius Gracchus in 123 BCE; it remained an object of political contention until it was taken under the control of the autocratic Roman emperors.

Ancient Rome[edit]

Further information: Grain supply to the city of Rome and Populares

This phrase originates from Rome in *Satire X* of the Roman satirical poet Juvenal (c. 100 CE). In context, the Latin *panem et circenses* (bread and circuses) identifies the only remaining interest of a Roman populace that no longer cares for its historical birthright of political involvement. Here Juvenal displays his contempt for the declining heroism of contemporary Romans, using a range of different themes, including lust for power and desire for old age to illustrate his argument.[6] Roman politicians passed laws in 140 CE to keep the votes of poorer citizens by introducing a grain dole: giving out cheap food and entertainment, "bread and circuses", became the most effective way to rise to power.

[...] iam pridem, ex quo suffragia nulli / vendimus, effudit curas; nam qui dabat olim / imperium, fasces,

... Already long ago, from when we sold our vote to no man, the People have abdicated our duties; for the People who once upon a time handed out military

legiones, omnia, nunc se / continet atque duas tantum res anxius optat, / panem et circenses. [...]	command, high civil office, legions — everything, now restrains itself and anxiously hopes for just two things: bread and circuses.[7]

—Juvenal, Satire 10.77–81

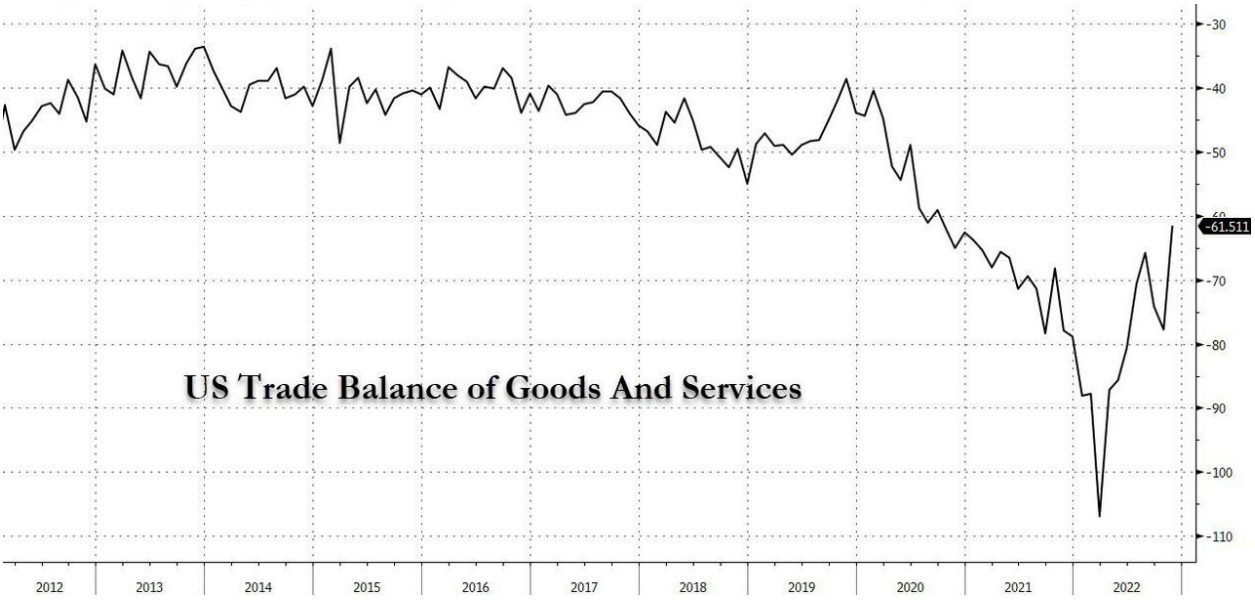
Juvenal here makes reference to the Roman practice of providing free wheat to Roman citizens as well as costly circus games and other forms of entertainment as a means of gaining political power. The *Annona* (grain dole) was begun under the instigation of the *popularis* politician Gaius Sempronius Gracchus in 123 BCE; it remained an object of political contention until it was taken under the control of the autocratic Roman emperors.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bread_and_circuses

government, Africa, vaccine: read later: PFIZER'S HISTORY OF FRAUD, CORRUPTION, AND USING NIGERIAN CHILDREN AS 'HUMAN GUINEA PIGS'

https://kanekoa.substack.com/p/pfizers-history-of-fraud-corruption

stats, markets, china: jan5 part of the feds unwind? "20% one-month decline in the deficit was the single biggest drop in the US trade deficit on a percentage basis going back to the global financial crisis"



And while it would have been welcome economic news if the drop in the deficit was the result of a surge in exports, **the plunge was driven not by rising exports but rather by shrinking imports - a telltale sign of economic slowdown -** with consumer goods, industrial supplies, capital goods and autos all contributing to the decline, the US Bureau of Economic Analysis said. To wit, while exports fell 2% in Nov. to $251.9BN from $257.0BN in Oct, imports fell a striking 6.4% in Nov. to $313.4BN from $334.8BN in Oct. Here are the detials:

expect a jump in Q4 GDP estimates due to a plunge in US imports due to the slowdown in US consumer demand for foreign goods and services serving to boost GDP due to the way net trade is imputed for GDP purposes (look into what that means)

censorship, tech, media: jan5 **200 million Twitter users' private information, including their email addresses, was put for sale after a breach exposed 400 million users' private information in the last week of December 2022**

tracing back to the hack, it seems the same vulnerability was used for another exploit in July 2022.

Stats, tech, government, censorship: jan5 isp user data retention b roken down simply by expert

Usually, internet providers keep telecommunication data, tracking data, and website data. That is, your internet provider keeps a record of the websites you visit, their URLs, the duration of your visit, and the bandwidth used.

Some internet providers can even go ahead and keep a record of the details of the websites you visit. Generally, your internet providers can record all your online activities.

Legally, internet providers must delete your history after the stipulated period elapses.

However, this might not be the case. Even if they delete your data, you will have new data if you continue to use the service.

Also, some internet providers may keep your data longer depending on their storage and even the operational cost it covers, for instance, advertisements.

Summary

Due to the mandatory data retention laws enforced in many countries, internet service providers must keep your history for a specified time.

If you are a privacy-conscious individual, you can limit the information your internet provider gets from your history. This is by using a VPN anytime you surf the internet.

privacyaffairsdotcom/how-long-isp-keep-my-history/

Markets, energy, Germany, sanctions, war: Jan.3rd: The first regular shipment of liquefied natural gas from the United States has arrived in Germany

Vaccine, china, health: (April 10, 2022 7:00 am ET)Shanghai Has Recorded More Than 130,000 Covid Cases—and No Deaths

In a Covid-19 outbreak that has locked 25 million people at home, the city of Shanghai has reported more than 130,000 cases since March 1, but says there have been no deaths and currently only one patient with severe illness.

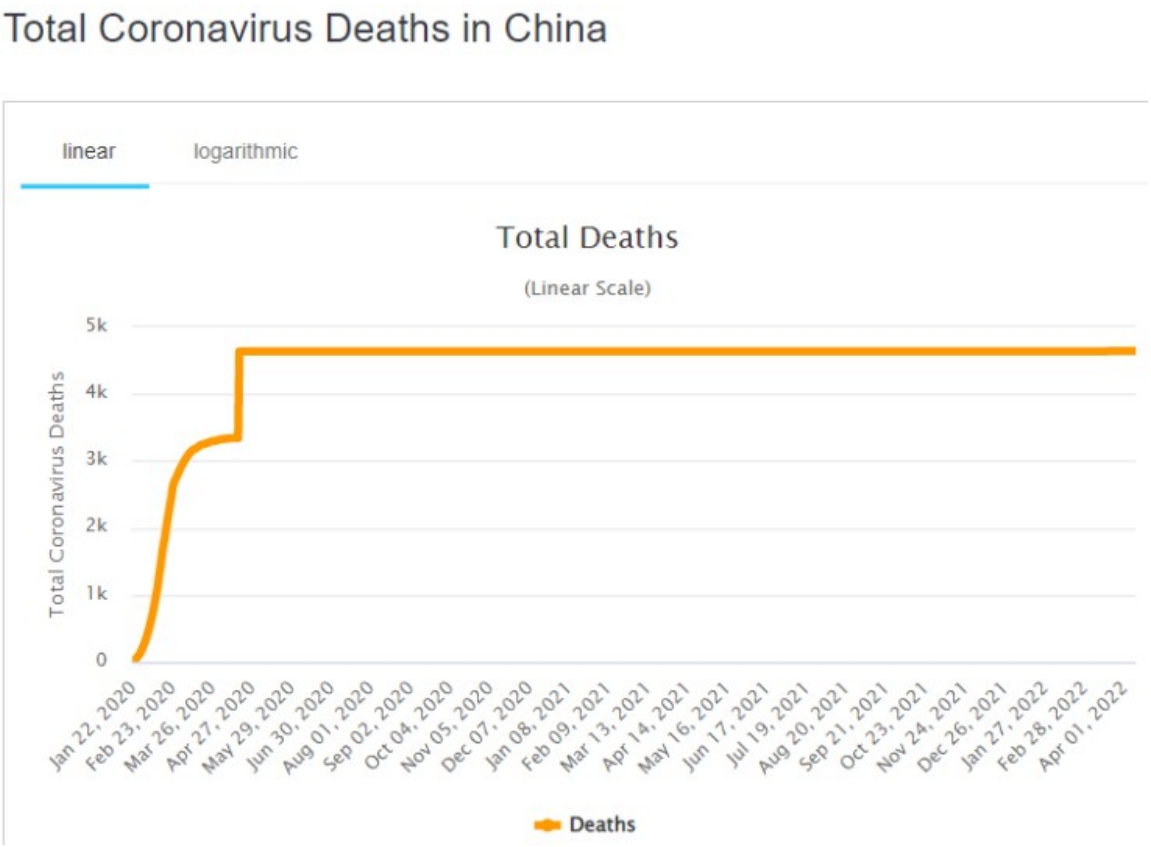
wsjdotcom/articles/shanghai-has-recorded-more-than-130-000-covid-casesand-no-deaths-11649588402

china, vaccine: good writer breaks down something I haven't been following: china's impossible to reckon covid death rate. He also wrote a bok that I'd love to read: "Snake Oil: How Xi Jinping Shut Down the World"

The Wall Street Journal published a piece titled "Shanghai Has Recorded More Than 130,000 Covid Cases—and No Deaths." Seeing the darkly comic headline, I was excited. Finally, after two years, the WSJ appeared to be calling out the data fraud that was the foundation for this whole sordid experiment in totalitarian virus mitigation, however belatedly.

Alas, my excitement was premature. As it turns out, the authors of the article tie themselves into knots to explain China's data. They even trot out Ryan Tibshirani, co-leader of Carnegie Mellon's COVID-19 modeling team, to tell us that China's death rate "can also be affected by factors like the age distribution and racial makeup of its population, vaccination status, type of vaccine and average distance to a healthcare facility," the implication being that Prof. Tibshirani sees nothing wrong with China's data, thank you very much.

Apparently, China's low vaccination rate among its elderly population means they can have 130,000 cases and zero deaths. Make it make sense. "Science!"



I guess Mr. Tibshirani sees this as the more likely explanation than that the world's most dishonest regime is simply lying. Unfortunately, he's far from alone in his backhanded advocacy for the integrity of the Chinese Communist Party.

For two years, the elite journalists, scientists, politicians, and health officials who speak for our most prestigious institutions have been conspicuously and vehemently deferential to the integrity of China's Covid data. Here's

what the New York Times' David Leonhardt wrote just two months ago:

BRIEFING | Zero Covid in China

Data coming out of China can be suspect, and local officials apparently undercounted Covid cases early in the pandemic to hide the scale of the outbreak. But most experts believe the country's official Covid counts have been at least close to accurate for most of the past two years.

That's partly because big outbreaks are hard to cover up, and partly because China's leadership has threatened to punish officials who hide cases. As Amy Qin, a Times correspondent who covers China, told us, "Local officials have every incentive to find the infections and stop the spread before they get out of hand."

Well, now, in Shanghai, we have a "big outbreak" which the CCP has not covered up—but the death data coming out is still manifestly fraudulent. Would the *New York Times* care to revisit their conclusion that "the country's official Covid counts have been at least close to accurate…because big outbreaks are hard to cover up"?

Perhaps it shouldn't come as a surprise that these elites want, so badly, for China's Covid data to be real, because for two years they've been imploring their citizens to emulate China, scoffing at our childish attachment to human rights and civil liberties.

Here's Rochelle Walensky, shortly before assuming office as Director of the US CDC:

Dr. Rochelle Walensky: Well, that's actually my biggest challenge with it is. I think that this is what Sweden tried to do. This was their plan. What we know from Sweden is that their death rate, their per capita death is 591 per million that rivals the United States at 593 per million, to give you a sense of what lockdowns were able to do in other countries. And I mean, really strict lockdowns. In China, their death rate is three per million. So when you look at what Sweden was trying to do and what they are trying to emulate in Sweden, it didn't work. They were unable to protect them.

And here's former Surgeon General Jerome Adams just two months ago:

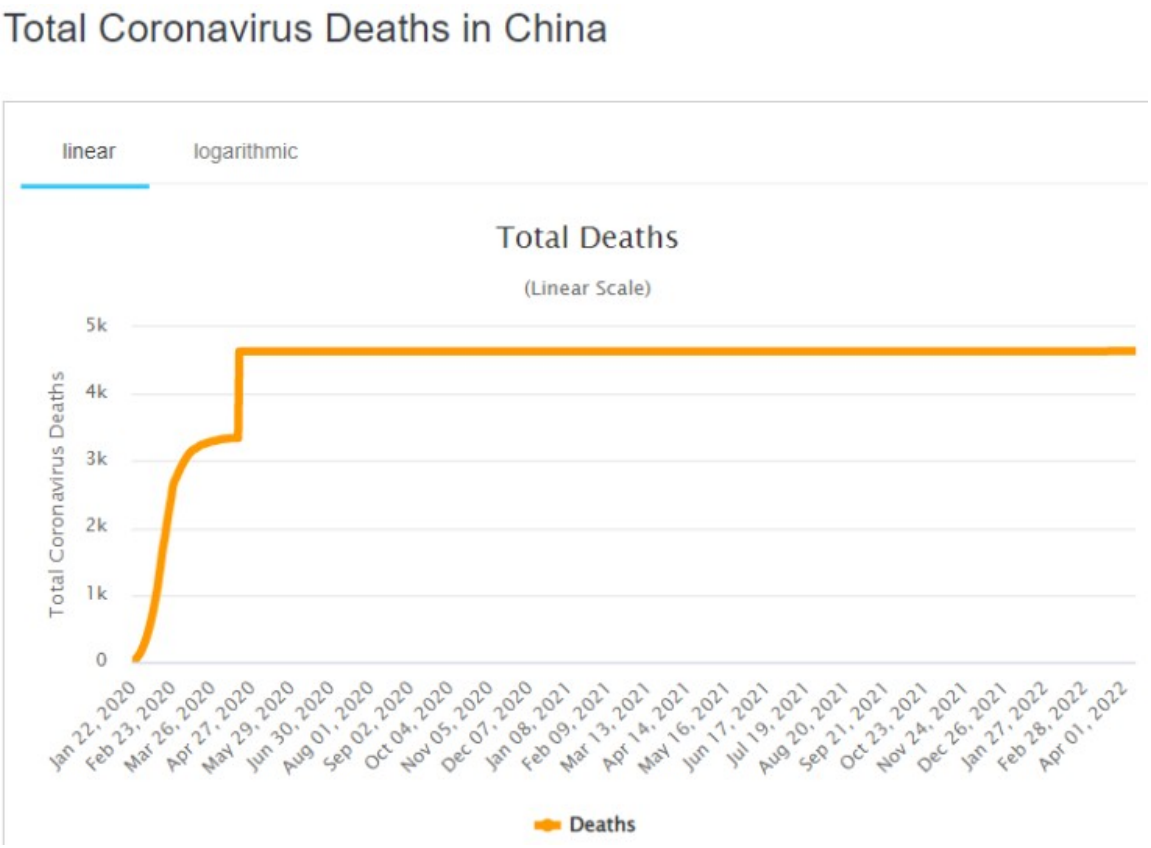
Jerome Adams
@JeromeAdamsMD
Replying to @karol
You don't really want to know an answer to this question. You want to be contrary. New Zealand. Singapore. China- where the virus started. All maintained lower rates than we did pre-vaccine. They had surges but quickly controlled them. Not just with masking but with mitigation.
6:29 AM · Feb 1, 2022 · Twitter for iPhone
6 Retweets
70 Quote Tweets
44 Likes

Something tells me these leaders might take a different view on the quality of China's data if it was their own lives—or the lives of their own children—that depended on it. But they've shown no qualms in staking the lives of millions of their fellow citizens on the quality of this graph.

By demanding western elites conform to a false reality in which they had to pretend China's data was real, the CCP forced them into a referendum as to whom they were truly loyal—China, or their own people. In the vast majority of cases, they chose China. And two years on, even amid the horrific spectacle of China's lockdown of Shanghai, they remain too cowardly and morally vacuous to reconsider their choice.

Even among lockdown skeptics, many can't accept that public health officials could possibly be that incompetent. It all seems too dumb, too banal. But since March 2020, every single pandemic policy—from the strict lockdownsand masks to the tests, death coding, and vaccine passes—has been imported from China based on the idea that these "extreme social-control measures" had effectively allowed China to "control the virus."

In an Orwellian "war on COVID misinformation," those who pointed out that China's data was obviously fake were vilified by their own governments as alt-right racists, neo-Nazis, and anti-vaxxers—even if fully-vaccinated. They were censored, professionally ostracized, and, as I experienced firsthand, had their social media accounts purged. Hundreds of millions were thrown into poverty, millions of small businesses were bankrupted, an entire generation of children was forced to isolate and cover their faces, and billions of life years were lost, all in service to the collective fantasy encapsulated by this graph.



Reprinted from the author’s Substack

Stats: 94% of the global population is younger than 70 years and 86% is younger than 60 years

sciencedirectdotcom/science/article/pii/S001393512201982X

markets, government, stats:

premium article that I'd like to red, saving to hopefully find later: "Here Are The Best And Worst Hedge Funds Of 2022"

zerohedgedotcom/markets/here-are-best-and-worst-performing-hedge-funds-2022

war: jan5 french send "first western tanks"; west has held back on sending either tanks or fighter jets to avoid a direct confrontation with russia; keep sending old equipment, though

While NATO allies have gradually increased the sophistication of weaponry shipped to Kiev, including longer range missiles and more recently Patriot systems approved by the US, they have stopped short of sending either tanks or fighter jets, largely on fears of Moscow expanding the war in response.

The AFP has described the French-made AMX-10 RC as an older light model tanks which the French infantry used in the 1980s, but has since been phased out.

Bloomberg was the first to report last week that "The US government is considering sending Bradley Fighting Vehicles to Ukraine as part of a further package of military support, according to people familiar with the matter."

Censorship, stats: Taibbi: Summaries Of All 'Twitter Files' To Date (they are telling us that we are censored and can't do anything about it THROUGH THE LEAKS. YES, THROUGH THE LEAK. They WANT us to know.

1. Twitter Files Part 1: December 2, 2022, by @mtaibbi

   TWITTER AND THE HUNTER BIDEN LAPTOP STORY

   Recounting the internal drama at Twitter surrounding the decision to block access to a *New York Post* exposé on Hunter Biden in October, 2020.

   Key revelations: Twitter blocked the story on the basis of its “hacked materials” policy, but executives internally knew the decision was problematic. “Can we truthfully claim that this is part of the policy?” is how comms official Brandon Borrman put it. Also: when a Twitter contractor polls members of Congress about the decision, they hear Democratic members want more moderation, not less, and “the First Amendment isn’t absolute.”

   1a. Twitter Files Supplemental, December 6, 2022, by @mtaibbi

   THE “EXITING” OF TWITTER DEPUTY GENERAL COUNSEL JIM BAKER

   A second round of Twitter Files releases was delayed, as new addition Bari Weiss discovers former FBI General Counsel and Twitter Deputy General Counsel Jim Baker was reviewing the first batches of Twitter Files documents, whose delivery to reporters had slowed.

2. Twitter Files Part 2, by @BariWeiss, December 8, 2022

   TWITTER’S SECRET BLACKLISTS

Bari Weiss gives a long-awaited answer to the question, “Was Twitter shadow-banning people?” It did, only the company calls it “visibility filtering.” Twitter also had a separate, higher council called SIP-PES that decided cases for high-visibility, controversial accounts.

Key revelations: Twitter had a huge toolbox for controlling the visibility of any user, including a “Search Blacklist” (for Dan Bongino), a “Trends Blacklist” for Stanford’s Dr. Jay Bhattacharya, and a “Do Not Amplify” setting for conservative activist Charlie Kirk. Weiss quotes a Twitter employee: “Think about visibility filtering as being a way for us to suppress what people see to different levels. It’s a very powerful tool.” With help from @abigailshrier, @shellenbergermd, @nelliebowles, and @isaacgrafstein.

3. Twitter Files, Part 3, by @mtaibbi, December 9, 2022

   THE REMOVAL OF DONALD TRUMP, October 2020 - January 6th, 2021

   First in a three-part series looking at how Twitter came to the decision to suspend Donald Trump. The idea behind the series is to show how all of Twitter’s “visibility filtering” tools were on display and deployed after January 6th, 2021. **Key Revelations**: Trust and Safety chief Yoel Roth not only met regularly with the FBI and the Department of Homeland Security, but with the Office of the Director of National Intelligence (ODNI). Also, Twitter was aggressively applying “visibility filtering” tools to Trump well before the election.

4. Twitter Files Part 4, by @ShellenbergerMD, December 10, 2022

   THE REMOVAL OF DONALD TRUMP, January 7th, 2021

   This thread by Michael Shellenberger looks at the key day after the J6 riots and before Trump would ultimately be banned from Twitter on January 8th, showing how Twitter internally reconfigured its rules to make a Trump ban fit their policies.

   Key revelations: at least one Twitter employee worried about a “slippery slope” in which “an online platform CEO with a global presence… can gatekeep speech for the entire world,” only to be shot down. Also, chief censor Roth argues for a ban on congressman Matt Gaetz even though it “doesn’t quite fit anywhere (duh),” and Twitter changed its “public interest policy” to clear a path for Trump’s removal.

5. Twitter Files Part 5, by @BariWeiss, December 11, 2022

   THE REMOVAL OF DONALD TRUMP, January 8th, 2021

   As angry as many inside Twitter were with Donald Trump after the January 6th Capitol riots, staffers struggled to suspend his account, saying things like, “I think we’d have a hard time saying this is incitement.” As documented by Weiss, they found a way to pull the trigger anyway.

   Key revelations: there were dissenters in the company (“Maybe because I am from China,” said one employee, “I deeply understand how censorship can

destroy the public conversation"), but are overruled by senior executives like Vijaya Gadde and Roth, who noted many on Twitter's staff were citing the "Banality of Evil," and comparing those who favored sticking to a strict legalistic interpretation of Twitter's rules — i.e. keep Trump, who had "no violation" — to "Nazis following orders."

6. Twitter Files Part 6, by @mtaibbi, December 16, 2022

   TWITTER, THE FBI SUBSIDIARY

   Twitter's contact with the FBI was "constant and pervasive," as FBI personnel, mainly in the San Francisco field office, regularly sent lists of "reports" to Twitter, often about Americans with low follower counts making joke tweets. Tweeters on both the left and the right were affected.

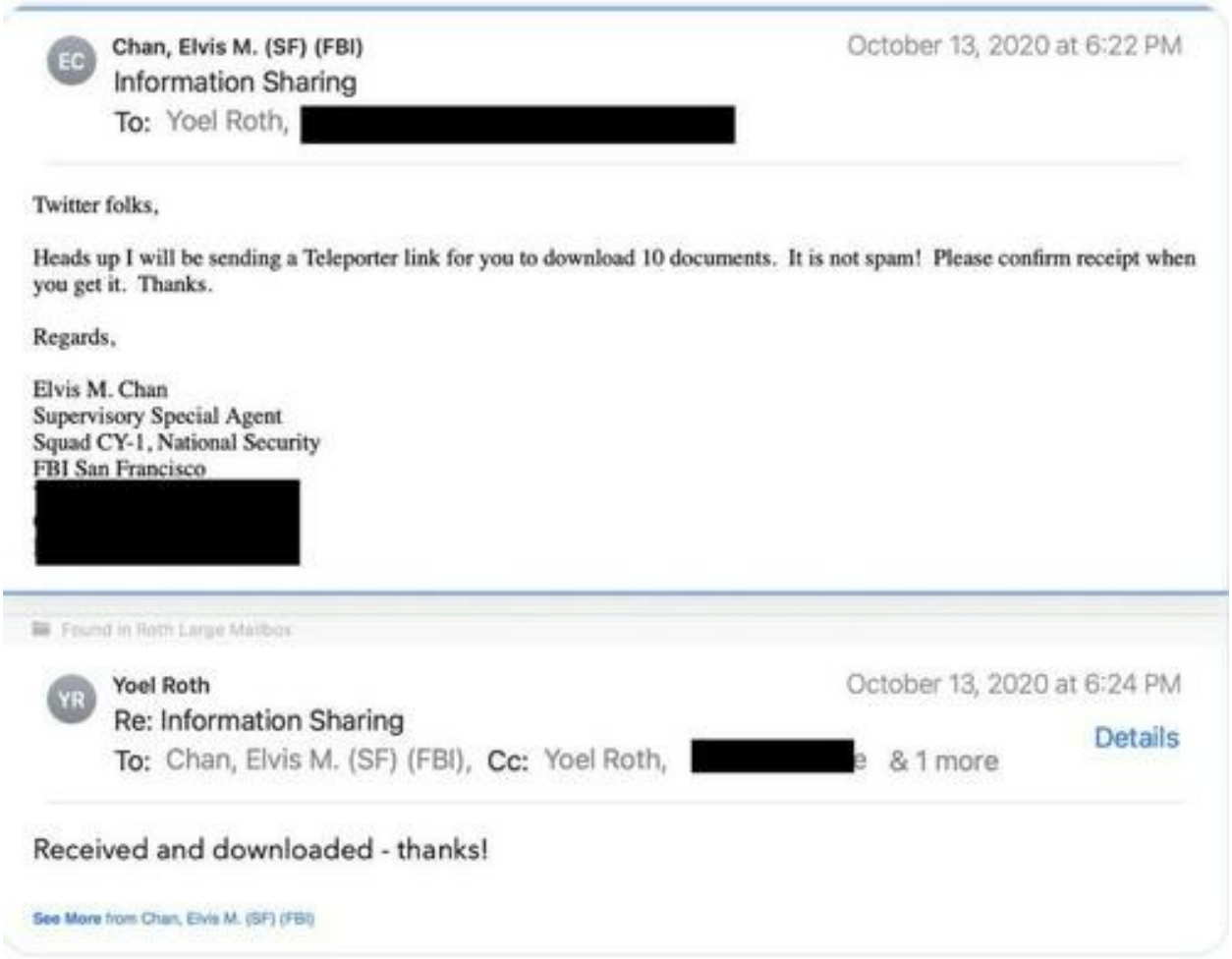
   Key revelations: A senior Twitter executive reports, "FBI was adamant no impediments to sharing" classified information exist. Twitter also agreed to "bounce" content on the recommendations of a wide array of governmental and quasi-governmental actors, from the FBI to the Homeland Security agency CISA to Stanford's Election Integrity Project to state governments. The company one day received so many moderation requests from the FBI, an executive congratulated staffers at the end for completing the "monumental undertaking."

7. Twitter Files Part 7, by @ShellenbergerMD, December 19, 2022

   THE FBI AND HUNTER BIDEN'S LAPTOP

   The Twitter Files story increases its focus on the company's relationship to federal law enforcement and intelligence, and shows intense communication between the FBI and Twitter just before the release of the *Post's* Hunter Biden story.

   Key Revelations: San Francisco agent Elvis Chan "sends 10 documents to Twitter's then-Head of Site Integrity, Yoel Roth, through Teleporter, a one-way communications channel from the FBI to Twitter," the evening before the release of the *Post* story. Also, Baker in an email explains Twitter was compensated for "processing requests" by the FBI, saying "I am happy to report we have collected $3,415,323 since October 2019!"


EC
Chan, Elvis M. (SF) (FBI)
Information Sharing
To: Yoel Roth, [redacted]
October 13, 2020 at 6:22 PM
Twitter folks,
Heads up I will be sending a Teleporter link for you to download 10 documents. It is not spam! Please confirm receipt when you get it. Thanks.
Regards,
Elvis M. Chan
Supervisory Special Agent
Squad CY-1, National Security
FBI San Francisco
[redacted]
Found in Roth Large Mailbox
YR
Yoel Roth
Re: Information Sharing
To: Chan, Elvis M. (SF) (FBI), Cc: Yoel Roth, [redacted] & 1 more
October 13, 2020 at 6:24 PM
Details
Received and downloaded - thanks!
See More from Chan, Elvis M. (SF) (FBI)

8. Twitter Files Part 8, by @lhfang, December 20, 2022

   HOW TWITTER QUIETLY AIDED THE PENTAGON'S COVERT ONLINE PSYOP CAMPAIGN

   Lee Fang takes a fascinating detour, looking at how Twitter for years approved and supported Pentagon-backed covert operations. Noting the company explicitly testified to Congress that it didn't allow such behavior, the platform nonetheless was a clear partner in state-backed programs involving fake accounts.

   Key revelations: after the U.S. Central Command (CENTCOM) sent over a list of 52 Arab-language accounts "we use to amplify certain messages," Twitter agreed to "whitelist" them. Ultimately the program would be outed in the *Washington Post* in 2022 — two years after Twitter and other platforms stopped assisting — but contrary to what came out in those reports, Twitter knew about and/or assisted in these programs for at least three years, from 2017-2020.

   Lee wrote a companion piece for the *Intercept* here:

9. Twitter Files Part 9, by @mtaibbi, December 24th, 2022

   TWITTER AND “OTHER GOVERNMENT AGENCIES”

   The Christmas Eve thread (I should have waited a few days to publish!) further details how the channels of communication between the federal government and Twitter operated, and reveals that Twitter directly or indirectly received lists of flagged content from “Other Government Agencies,” i.e. the CIA.

   Key revelations: CIA officials attended at least one conference with Twitter in the summer of 2020, and companies like Twitter and Facebook received “OGA briefings,” at their regular “industry” meetings held in conjunction with the FBI and the Department of Homeland Security. The FBI and the “Foreign Influence Task Force” met regularly “not just with Twitter, but with Yahoo!, Twitch, Cloudfare, LinkedIn, even Wikimedia.”

10. Twitter Files Part 10, by @DavidZweig, December 28, 2022

    HOW TWITTER RIGGED THE COVID DEBATE

    David Zweig drills down into how Twitter throttled down information about COVID that was true but perhaps inconvenient for public officials, “discrediting doctors and other experts who disagreed.”

    Key Revelations: Zweig found memos from Twitter personnel who’d liaised with Biden administration officials who were “very angry” that Twitter had not deplatformed more accounts. White House officials for instance wanted attention on reporter Alex Berenson. Zweig also found “countless” instances of Twitter banning or labeling “misleading” accounts that were true or merely controversial. A Rhode Island physician named Andrew Bostom, for instance, was suspended for, among other things, referring to the results of a peer-reviewed study on mRNA vaccines.

11. *and*

12. Twitter Files Parts 11 and 12, by @mtaibbi, January 3, 2023

    HOW TWITTER LET THE INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY IN

    and

    TWITTER AND THE FBI “BELLY BUTTON”

    These two threads focus respectively on the second half of 2017, and a period stretching roughly from summer of 2020 through the present. The first describes how Twitter fell under pressure from Congress and the media to produce “material” showing a conspiracy of Russian accounts on their platform, and the second shows how Twitter tried to resist fulfilling moderation requests for the State Department, but ultimately agreed to let State and other agencies send requests through the FBI, which agent Chan calls “the belly button of the USG.” **Revelations**: at the close of 2017, Twitter makes a key internal decision. Outwardly, the company would claim independence and promise that content

would only be removed at “our sole discretion.” The internal guidance says, in writing, that Twitter will remove accounts “identified by the U.S. intelligence community” as “identified by the U.S.. intelligence community as a state-sponsored entity conducting cyber-operations.”

The second thread shows how Twitter took in requests from everyone — Treasury, HHS, NSA, FBI, DHS, etc. — and also received personal requests from politicians like Democratic congressman Adam Schiff, who asked to have journalist Paul Sperry suspended.

GLOSSARY OF “TWITTER FILES” TERMS

1. ***Government Agencies and NGOs***

CISA: The Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency, an agency within the Department of Homeland Security (DHS)

CENTCOM: Central Command of the Armed Forces

ODNI: Office of the Director of National Intelligence

FITF: Foreign Influence Task Force, a cyber-regulatory agency comprised of members of the FBI, DHS, and ODNI

“OGA”: Other Government Agency, colloquially — CIA

GEC: Global Engagement Center, an analytical division of the U.S. State Department

USIC: United States intelligence community

HSIN: Homeland Security Information Network, a portal through which states and other official bodies can send “flagged” accounts

EIP: Election Integrity Project, a cyber-laboratory based at Stanford University that sends many reports to Twitter

DFR: Digital Forensic Research lab, an outlet that performs a similar function to the EIP, only is funded by the Atlantic Council

IRA: Internet Research Agency, the infamous Russian “troll farm” headed by “Putin’s chef,” Yevgheny Prigozhin

2. ***Twitter or Industry-specific terms***

PII: Can have two meanings. “Personally identifiable information” is self-explanatory, while a “Public Interest Interstitial” is a warning placed over a tweet, so that it cannot be seen. Twitter personnel even use “interstitial” as a verb, as in, “Can we interstitial that?”

JIRA: Twitter’s internal ticketing system, through which complaints rise and are decided

PV2: The system used at Twitter to view the profile of any user, to check easily if it has flags like “Trends Blacklist”

SIP-PES Site Integrity Policy — Policy Escalation Support. SIP-PES is like Twitter’s version of a moderation Supreme Court, dealing with the most high-profile, controversial rulings

SI: Site integrity. Key term that you’ll see repeately in Twitter email traffic, especially with “escalations,” i.e. tweets or content that have been reported for moderation review

CHA: Coordinated Harmful Activity

SRT: Strategic Response Team

GET: Global Escalation Team

VF: Visibility Filtering

GUANO: Tool in Twitter’s internal system that keeps a chronological record of all actions taken on an account

VIT: Very Important Tweeter. Really.

GoV: Glorificaiton of Violence

BOT: In the moderation content, an individualized heuristic attached to an account that moderates certain behavior automatically

BME: Bulk Media Exploitation

EP Abuse: Episodic abuse

PCF: Parity, commentary and fan accounts. “PCF” sometimes appears as a reason an account has escaped an automated moderation process, under a limited exception

FLC: Forced Login Challenge. Also called a “phone challenge,” it’s a way Twitter attempts to verify if an account is real or automated. “Phone challenges” are seen repeatedly in discussions about verification of suspected “Russia-linked” accounts

IO: Information Operations, as in *The GEC’s mandate for offensive IO to promote American interests.*

Crypto, government: jan5 You Can Now Live In Lugano Switzerland Solely On Bitcoin

The Plan ₿ foundation recently took to Twitter to announce a new map which showcases the hundreds of merchants across the city that accept bitcoin. “Now you can live in Lugano just using Bitcoin!,” the tweet read. “Find out all you need to enjoy your stay in Lugano through the map with all Lugano’s Plan ₿ merchants.”

https://bitcoinmagazine.com/culture/live-in-swiss-city-solely-on-bitcoin

vaccine, health, censorship: Wearing Masks When Ill "Not Compulsory", UK Government Says

The UK government has stressed that it is “not compulsory” to wear a mask while ill, though it has been “longstanding advice” from health authorities.

It comes after Professor Susan Hopkins, chief medical adviser at the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA), issued advice on Jan. 2 saying adults should “wear a face covering” if they have to leave the house while feeling unwell.

The UKHSA handed out the advice this week in a bid to counter high levels of flu, COVID-19, and invasive Strep A disease.

Transport Secretary Mark Harper also said it would be “sensible” to do so if travelling.

Transport Secretary Mark Harper arrives for a government COBRA emergency committee meeting at the Cabinet Office in London, on Dec. 14, 2022. (Victoria Jones/PA Media)

Asked for the government’s opinion on the UKHSA’s guidance, Prime Minister Rishi Sunak’s spokesman said on Jan. 3: “Obviously that’s advice they put out. I think that is pretty longstanding advice.

*“**It remains health advice to the public—it is not mandatory.** People need their judgment. Certainly people will continue to use their good sense, having spent a long time dealing … with these kinds of infectious illnesses.”*

Questioned whether it was really “longstanding” advice for people to wear face coverings if they are battling a cold, the spokesman replied: “That’s not what the advice says. What you’ll see is, as has often been the case, if people are ill, they are advised to stay at home.

“Obviously people can choose to wear a mask if they wish to. It is not compulsory. This is advice from UKHSA rather than government ministers telling

people what to do, as we saw during the height of the pandemic before the emergence of vaccines."

Stats, energy, Russia: Jan4 Notes from underground

Three accounts of the oil industry will make you think the next time you fill the tank

SOCAR Oil Fields #3 Baku,Azerbaijan, 2006, Edward Burtynsky, courtesy of Flowers, London and Metivier Gallery, Toronto; from 'Oil' by Edward Burtynsky (Steidl)

- Notes from underground on twitter (opens in a new window)
- Notes from underground on facebook (opens in a new window)
- Notes from underground on linkedin (opens in a new window)
-

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Ed Crooks

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The Oil Road: Journeys from the Caspian Sea to the City of London, by James Marriott and Mika Minio-Paluello, *Verso, RRP£16.99/$26.95, 376 pages*

Fuel on the Fire: Oil and Politics in Occupied Iraq, by Greg Muttitt, *The New Press, RRP$28.95/Vintage, RRP£9.99, 432 pages*

The Big Flatline: Oil and the No-Growth Economy, by Jeff Rubin, *Palgrave Macmillan, RRP$27 (October)/£16.99 (November), 272 pages*

In his introduction to *Naked Lunch*, William Burroughs explained the title as “a frozen moment when everyone sees what is on the end of every fork”. If you have spent any time looking at the oil business, you will know exactly what he meant.

So much in modern life, from plastic cups to Boeing 787s, is made from or with oil that discovering the facts of how it is extracted, processed and distributed is like peeling back the surface of the everyday world to reveal the hidden structure beneath. When BP’s Macondo well ruptured in the Gulf of Mexico in 2010, many people were confronted for the first time by some of those realities – including the awe-inspiring difficulties of working in the deep waters where oil companies venture now that the more accessible areas have been sucked dry, and the catastrophic consequences of failure. The video feed from the sea bed a mile down, showing oil and gas pouring unstoppably from the well into the waters of the gulf, brought home to American consumers the ugly side of a business that they had habitually ignored.

The three books under review, in contrasting styles, achieve a similar effect: shining a light on the industry to expose the consequences of our dependence on oil. At the very least, they will make you think the next time you fill the tank.

The Oil Road is an unusual work: an elegantly written travel book about a pipeline. The Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan pipeline,, known as BTC, carries crude from oilfields in the Caspian Sea to a tanker port in the Mediterranean, providing a secure route for the booming energy exports of the former Soviet republic of Azerbaijan. Filled to capacity, it can carry more than 1 per cent of the world’s oil supply, making it a strategically critical piece of infrastructure for the world.

Exploring the political, social and environmental impact of the pipeline as they travel its 1,100-mile length and beyond, James Marriott and Mika Minio-Paluello spin an unexpectedly engaging tale. Both men are members of Platform, a curious hybrid of protest group and arts collective that makes its points through exhibitions and performances, rather than demonstrations and speeches, and

their book is a similarly distinctive blend of travelogue, reportage and history.

Not many books about oil include references to Rainer Maria Rilke and Filippo Marinetti, or cite Robert Fagles' translation of *The Odyssey* in their bibliographies alongside the 2008 annual report of the state oil fund of Azerbaijan. Marriott and Minio-Paluello have points to make about the corrosive effect of oil money, and about the damage done by oil to the environment. Getting BTC built was an important diplomatic objective for the US and Europe, as well as a commercial priority for BP, which owns much of the oil that flows through it. As the authors point out, the interests of people living along the route were never the principal focus.

But the book is more a series of reflections than a polemic or manifesto. Rather than John Pilger or Naomi Klein, the presiding spirit is that of Iain Sinclair, who uses rambling excursions in and around London to uncover hidden aspects of the city's past and present.

Following the route taken by the oil, from the offshore platforms in the Azeri-Chirag-Gunashli oilfield in the Caspian to refineries in Germany, Marriott and Minio-Paluello intersperse the story of their journey with historical anecdotes, often showing how oil has shaped the regions they pass through from Baku to Bavaria. It is an illuminating technique, pointing up how much continuity there is in the nexus of money, power and oil.

Not that the pair are slouches as reporters. They deliver some sharp observations about the suppression of free speech in Azerbaijan and the danger of leaks, and uncover a genuine scoop in pinning down stories that Russia had bombed BTC during the war with Georgia in August 2008. In fact, a different nearby pipeline was attacked, apparently deliberately, but was not hit.

Around the same time that oil was beginning to flow through BTC, in the summer of 2006, the US was enlisting the help of the UN to revive a less successful attempt to add to global oil supplies: the effort to raise Iraq's production after the US-led invasion of 2003. The story of how that proved so difficult is told in Greg Muttitt's *Fuel on the Fire*, a history of Iraq's oil industry from before the war to the arrival "en masse" of western oil companies at the end of the decade.

Muttitt is a former colleague of Marriott and Minio-Paluello at Platform, and has a walk-on part in *The Oil Road*, but his own book is very different, if equally impressive. A painstaking piece of investigative reporting with 48 pages of footnotes, based on documents released under freedom of information legislation and interviews with Iraqis, it gives the best account yet of a hitherto under-reported story.

After nine years, a financial cost of about $1tn, and more than 100,000 dead (according to the Iraq Body Count project), we still do not have a fully convincing explanation of why the US was so committed to invading Iraq. The absence of any connection between Saddam Hussein and the 9/11 attacks, the likelihood that he had no effective weapons of mass destruction, and the potential for sustained chaos and bloodshed after he was toppled, were all understood by people who knew Iraq well before the invasion, yet the US administration was determined to push ahead nevertheless.

Muttitt suggests an explanation that was always one of the allegations thrown by critics of the US, but has received little serious attention: that it was, at least in part, a war for oil. That is not in the simplistic sense that the US and British governments were trying to grab Iraq's resources for the benefit of ExxonMobil and BP, although those interests were a factor in post-war planning.

Rather, it is that the US saw a need to bring on new sources of oil production to meet growing global demand. Iraq, with the world's fifth-largest oil reserves, was an obvious source of increased supply, but for as long as Saddam remained in power its exports were constrained by sanctions.

From that perspective Saddam needed to be removed, Muttitt argues, but thereafter it did not matter who produced the oil. "What the major powers need is a continuous flow to consumers through purchase, not theft, over many years," he writes. Exxon, BP and other western groups were important only because they had the technology and skills that were most likely to maximise production.

Muttitt does not claim that oil was the single motive for the war, and accepts that the US administration may have made a genuine mistake in over-estimating Iraq's capacity to produce weapons of

mass destruction. But the weight of the evidence that he sets out suggests that the maximisation of Iraq's oil production was an important objective both before and after the war. In that sense, after years of slow progress, the invasion appears to be showing results. In July, for the first time since the 1980s, Iraq's oil production surpassed that of Iran, which has been constrained by international sanctions. The International Energy Agency, which monitors oil markets on behalf of developed countries, forecast last year that Iraq would make the largest contribution to increased oil supplies of any country in the world over the coming decade.

The impact of political instability in the Middle East on future oil production is one of the issues considered by Jeff Rubin in *The Big Flatline*, a brisk introduction to a world of constrained energy supplies. His previous take on the issue, *Why Your World Is About to Get a Whole Lot Smaller* (2009), put a more positive spin on the retreat of globalisation caused by increased fuel costs. *The Big Flatline* is gloomier, possibly reflecting the fact that Rubin has in the interim resigned from his comfortable job as chief economist at CIBC World Markets, the Canadian bank. It is also less successful than its predecessor, with more irrelevant digressions and fewer original ideas, but it is nonetheless important.

Although the flow of oil will not stop, Rubin argues, the new sources of crude, in deep water and tar sands and shale rocks, will be more expensive than the production we have relied on in the past, and that increased cost will be a significant constraint on economic growth.

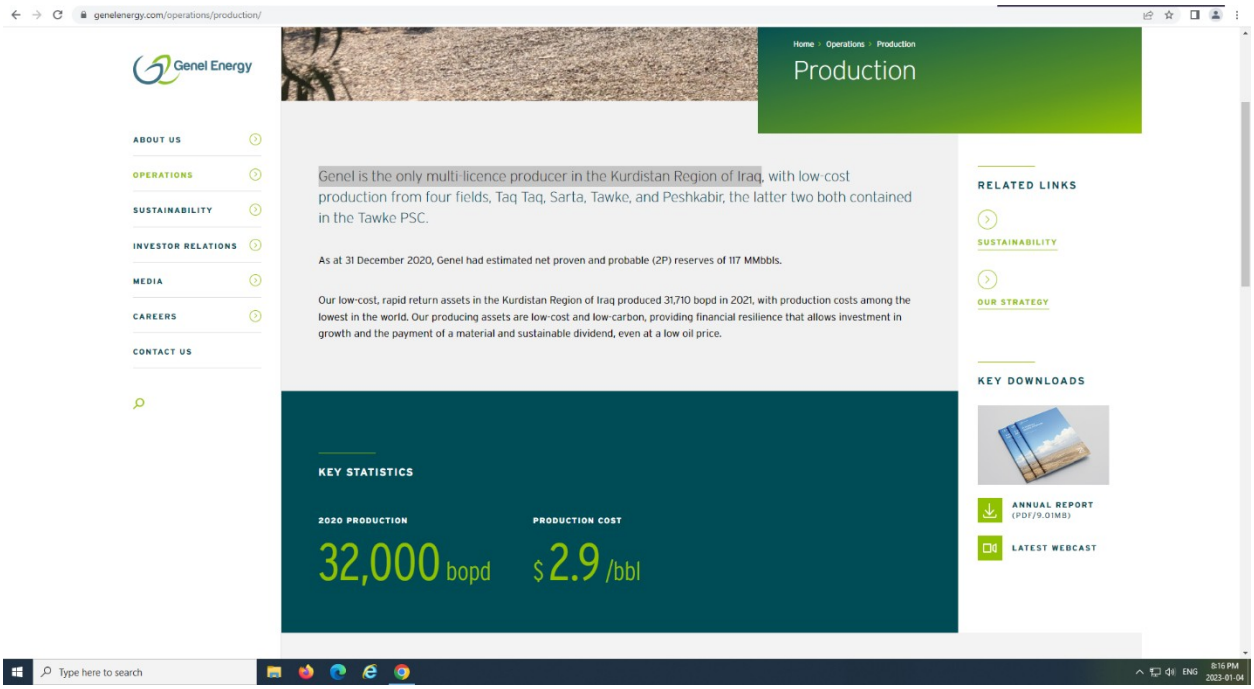
The book does not fully refute the opposing position, that thanks to the techniques of shale production pioneered in North America, we are in fact entering an era of energy abundance, with ample supplies of oil and gas. But the warning that constraints on energy use will set limits to growth is worth taking seriously nevertheless. *The Big Flatline* should be read in conjunction with "Is US Economic Growth Over?", a much talked-about recent paper by Northwestern University economist Robert Gordon. He suggests six reasons to believe it might be, including the need to curb energy consumption to fight the threat of global warming.

The good news about energy scarcity, Rubin argues, could be that "we'll buy fewer things, but we'll also have more time to enjoy our lives". For many people, however, especially in emerging

economies, that may seem like an unattractive prospect. If energy supplies do become tighter, we can expect intensified efforts to grab hold of what is left.

Ed Crooks is the FT's US industry and energy editor

Energy, middle east, stats: region produces oil for under 3 dollars per day in kurdish iraq: "Genel is the only multi-licence producer in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq"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Production
Genel is the only multi-licence producer in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq, with low-cost production from four fields, Taq Taq, Sarta, Tawke, and Peshkabir, the latter two both contained in the Tawke PSC.
As at 31 December 2020, Genel had estimated net proven and probable (2P) reserves of 117 MMbbls.
Our low-cost, rapid return assets in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq produced 31,710 bopd in 2021, with production costs among the lowest in the world. Our producing assets are low-cost and low-carbon, providing financial resilience that allows investment in growth and the payment of a material and sustainable dividend, even at a low oil price.
KEY STATISTICS
2020 PRODUCTION
32,000 bopd
PRODUCTION COST
$2.9 /bbl
RELATED LINKS
SUSTAINABILITY
OUR STRATEGY
KEY DOWNLOADS
ANNUAL REPORT
(PDF/9.01MB)
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2023-01-04

Energy, stats, middle east, markets: read later: Kurdistan Oil Pipeline
https://www.gem.wiki/Kurdistan_Oil_Pipeline#cite_note-krg-8

stats, energy, Russia, history: The Caspian Sea is the world's largest inland body of water, often described as the world's largest lake or a full-fledged sea, and lies above one of the world's largest collections of oil and gas fields. As the

sea is landlocked, transporting oil to Western markets is complicated

During Soviet times, all transportation routes from the Caspian region were through Russia. The collapse of the Soviet Union inspired a search for new routes. Russia first insisted that the new pipeline should pass through its territory, then declined to participate.[2][3]

In the spring of 1992, the Turkish Prime Minister Süleyman Demirel proposed to Central Asian countries including Azerbaijan that the pipeline run through Turkey. The first document on the construction of the Baku–Tbilisi–Ceyhan pipeline was signed between Azerbaijan and Turkey on 9 March 1993 in Ankara.[4] The Turkish route meant a pipeline from Azerbaijan would run through Georgia or Armenia, but the route through Armenia was politically impossible due to the unresolved war between Armenia and Azerbaijan over the status of Nagorno-Karabakh. This left the circuitous Azerbaijan-Georgia-Turkey route, longer and more expensive to build than the other option.[5]

The project gained momentum following the Ankara Declaration, adopted on 29 October 1998 by President of Azerbaijan Heydar Aliyev, President of Georgia Eduard Shevardnadze, President of Kazakhstan Nursultan Nazarbayev, President of

Turkey Süleyman Demirel, and President of Uzbekistan Islam Karimov. The declaration was witnessed by the United States Secretary of Energy Bill Richardson, who expressed strong support for the pipeline. The intergovernmental agreement in support of the pipeline was signed by Azerbaijan, Georgia, and Turkey on 18 November 1999, during a meeting of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) in Istanbul, Turkey.[5]

Construction[edit]

The Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan Pipeline Company (BTC Co.) was established in London on 1 August 2002.[6] The ceremony launching construction of the pipeline was held on 18 September 2002.[7] Construction began in April 2003 and was completed in 2005. The Azerbaijan section was constructed by Consolidated Contractors International of Greece, and Georgia's section was constructed by a joint venture of France's Spie Capag and UK Petrofac International. The Turkish section was constructed by BOTAŞ Petroleum Pipeline Corporation. Bechtel was the main contractor for engineering, procurement and construction.[6] Detailed design and engineering contractor was ILF Consulting Engineers for the Turkish section of pipeline, which is approximately over 1000km [8]

Inauguration[edit]

On 25 May 2005, the pipeline was inaugurated at the Sangachal Terminal by President Ilham Aliyev of the Azerbaijan Republic, President Mikhail Saakashvili of Georgia and President Ahmet Sezer of Turkey, joined by President Nursultan Nazarbayev of Kazakhstan and United States Secretary of Energy Samuel Bodman.[9] [10] The inauguration of the Georgian section was hosted by President Mikheil Saakashvili at the pumping station near Gardabani on 12 October 2005.[11] The inauguration ceremony at Ceyhan terminal was held on 13 July 2006.[1][12]

Stats, energy, Russia: petroleum pipelines through europe

Energy, stats, middle east: Kirkuk–Baniyas crude oil pipeline transports 300 bpd from the Kirkuk oil field in Iraq to the Syrian port of Baniyas and was constructed in 23 April 1952 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kirkuk%E2%80%93Baniyas_pipeline

stats, energy, middles east: Iraq's largest crude oil export line is The Kirkuk–Ceyhan Oil Pipeline, also known as the Iraq–Turkey Crude Oil Pipeline, is a 600-mile-long (970 km) pipeline that runs from Kirkuk in Iraq to Ceyhan in Turkey.

Sanctions, war, energy: (october.13th, 2021) US sanctions under the Caesar Act against Syria specifically target the energy and construction

sectors to impede the country's ability to rebuild after 10 brutal years of war. The sanctions can target any person regardless of nationality, discouraging Syria's neighbors from helping in the reconstruction.

Stats, war, middle east, energy: jan4 World Food Programme: 60% of syrian close to staring, feb 2021, Syrians have been grappling with a rise in the price of basic items over the past year as the national currency, the Syrian Pound, has plummeted in value.

"The situation has never been worse. After 10 years of conflict, Syrian families have exhausted their savings as they face a spiralling economic crisis," said Sean O'Brien, WFP Representative and Country Director in Syria.

Meanwhile, the cost of basic foods to feed a family for a month – such as bread, rice, lentils, oil and sugar – far exceeds average salaries.

"It is alarming that a simple meal is beyond the reach of families across Syria, and this new data shows humanitarian assistance is the difference between putting a meal on the table and going to bed hungry. Lifesaving support has never been so crucial," said Mr. O'Brien.

Erdogan, war: Syria and Turkey's defense ministers recently met for the first time since 2011.

Energy, middle east, war, sanctions: As part of its occupation of Syria, the US and Kurdish allies control most of the country's oil and gas resources.
Energy middle east, war, sanctions: Jordan opened its border with Syria in September, October 13, 2021, antiwar

Stats, war: low intensity warfare: "involves the state's use of military forces applied selectively and with restraint to enforce compliance with its policies or objectives."

Low-intensity conflict is defined by the US Army as:

... a political-military confrontation between contending states or groups below conventional war and above the routine, peaceful competition among states. It frequently involves protracted struggles of competing principles and ideologies. Low-intensity conflict ranges from subversion to the use of the armed forces. It is waged by a combination of means, employing political, economic, informational, and military instruments. Low-intensity conflicts are often localized, generally in the Third World, but contain regional and global security implications.[3]

History, war: the story of Vichy France, the government that ruled from June 1940 till August 1944. Despite heavy pressure, the French government at Vichy never joined the Axis powers and even remained formally at war with Germany

The terms of the armistice presented certain advantages, such as keeping the French Navy and French colonial empire under French control and avoiding full occupation of the country by Germany, which maintained a degree of French independence and neutrality
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vichy_France

On November 8, 1942, in the thick of World War II, thousands of American soldiers landed on the Atlantic coast of Morocco, while others amassed in Algeria, only to take immediate gunfire from the French. Needless to say, it marked the end of U.S. diplomatic relations with the Vichy government installed in France during WWII.

Most nations recognized the Vichy government as legitimate; the U.S. sent William Leahy as an ambassador,

https://www.smithsonianmag.com/history/vichy-government-france-world-war-ii-willingly-collaborated-nazis-180967160/

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Collaboration_with_the_Axis_powers

China, war, history: Karen insurgent groups, led primarily by the Karen National Union (KNU), have waged war against the Burmese government since early 1949. They have a population of 5 million people, and account for 7% of the Burmese (Myanmar population). The original aim of the KNU was to create an independent Karen homeland called Kawthoolei.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Karen_people

Yangon, the largest city in Berma suffers from deeply inadequate infrastructure, especially compared to other major cities in Southeast Asia, such as Jakarta, Bangkok or Hanoi

history: The British captured Yangon and all of Lower Burma in the Second Anglo-Burmese War of 1852, and subsequently transformed Yangon into the commercial and political hub of British Burma

stats, war: HUMINT: Human intelligence (abbreviated HUMINT and pronounced as hyoo-mint) is intelligence gathered by means of interpersonal contact. A typical HUMINT activity consists of interrogations and

conversations with persons having access to information.

Human intelligence (abbreviated **HUMINT** and pronounced as *hyoo-mint*) is intelligence gathered by means of interpersonal contact, as opposed to the more technical intelligence gathering disciplines such as signals intelligence (SIGINT), imagery intelligence (IMINT) and measurement and signature intelligence (MASINT).[1]

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Human_intelligence_(intelligence_gathering)

censorship, journal: themarkup, a website that I had saved in my favourites, completely lies to their readers by saying tech firms don't listen to their users audio, something easily proven false with a simple google search.

Dear Julia: Is my cellphone listening to me? I often get ads related to things that I talked about but didn't look up online, and it makes me think that my phone is sending data about my conversations to advertisers.

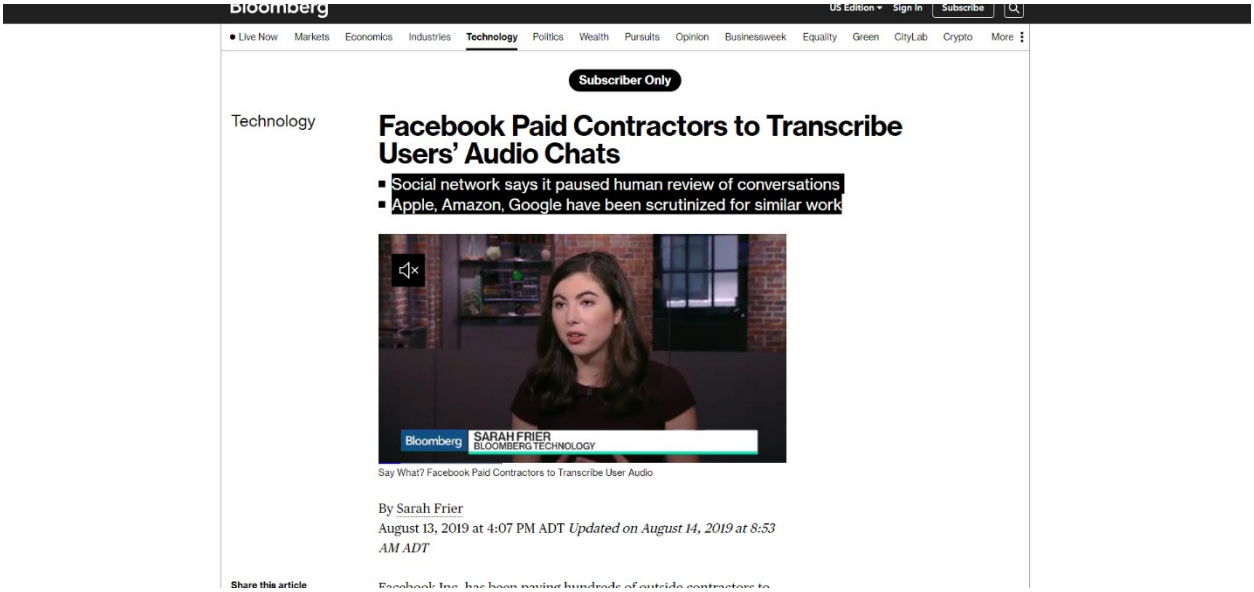
Dear Reader: I get this question all the time because it's such a common experience. And yet there is no compelling evidence that marketers are using your audio to tailor their advertisements.

There have been many experiments over the years testing this hypothesis, and all of them have come up dry. The most comprehensive test—a study by Northeastern University researchers published in 2018—analyzed 17,260 Android apps and found that "no apps appeared to exfiltrate audio in our tests."

themarkupdotorg/newsletter/hello-world/ask-julia-is-my-phone-listening-to-me

As you can see, tech firms actually do listen to their users audio, even going so far as to hire independent contractors

to do the job for them, and without anybody knowing, something that was reported by Bloomberg in 2019..



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Technology

Facebook Paid Contractors to Transcribe Users' Audio Chats

- Social network says it paused human review of conversations
- Apple, Amazon, Google have been scrutinized for similar work

Say What? Facebook Paid Contractors to Transcribe User Audio

By Sarah Frier
August 13, 2019 at 4:07 PM ADT *Updated on August 14, 2019 at 8:53 AM ADT*

Share this article

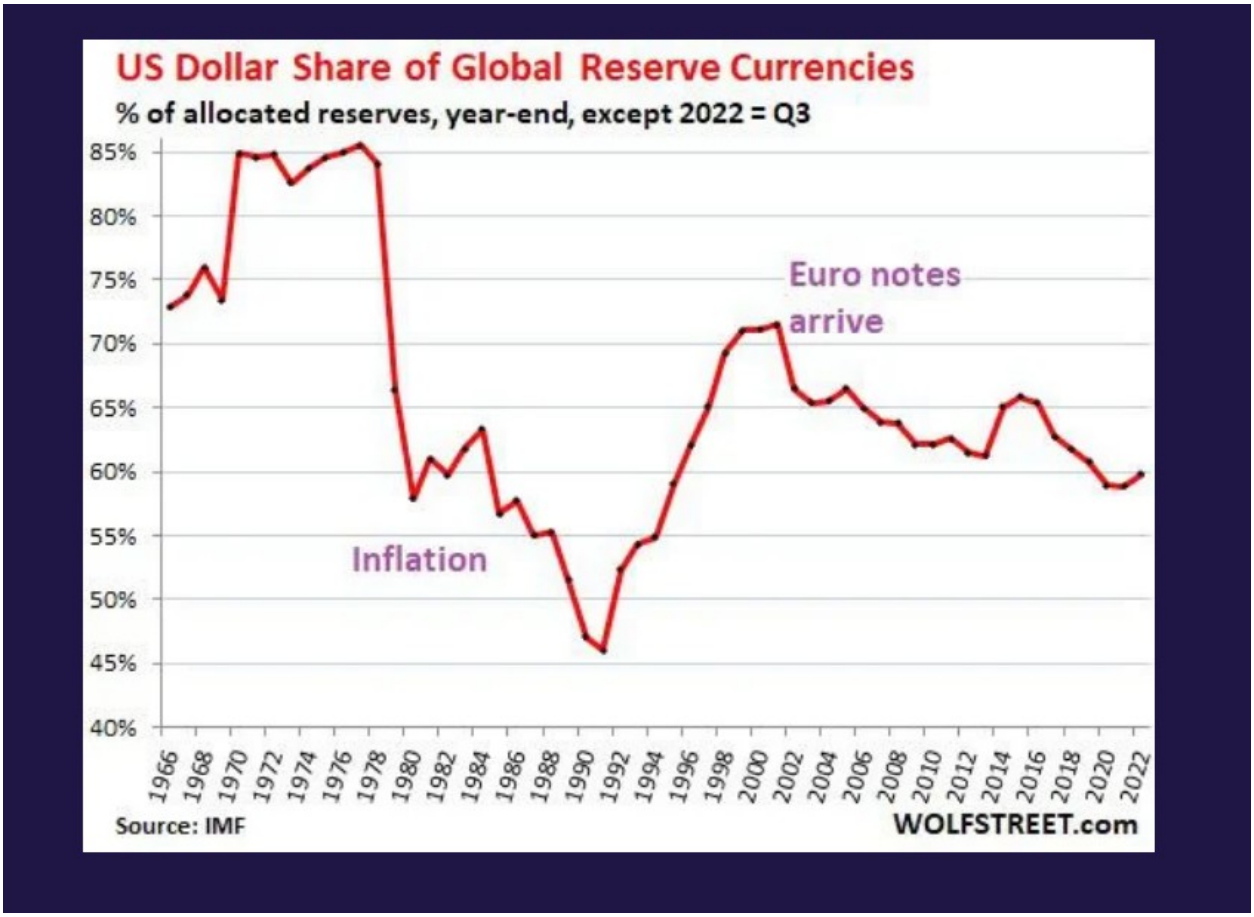
Facebook Inc. has been paying hundreds of outside contractors to

Facebook confirmed that it had been transcribing users' audio and said it will no longer do so, following scrutiny into other companies. "Much like Apple and Google, we paused human review of audio more than a week ago," the company said Tuesday. The company said the users who were affected chose the option in Facebook's Messenger app to have their voice chats transcribed. The contractors were checking whether Facebook's artificial intelligence correctly interpreted the messages, which were anonymized.

webcachedotgoogleusercontentdotcom/search?q=cache:kMH6qm-WsGcJ:https://www.bloomberg.com/

news/articles/2019-08-13/facebook-paid-hundreds-of-contractors-to-transcribe-users-audio&cd=4&hl=en&ct=clnk&gl=ca

stats, markets, war, sanctions, china: The dollar had a share of 85% of global exchange reserves in the early 1970s. But over the next 15 years, the share plunged by nearly half, driven by an explosion of inflation that scared the wits out of holders of USD-denominated assets



Media, stats: millionaire socialite executive who killed autistic son in $2300 per night hotel ends up dead after being denied bail

The socialite from Belgium allegedly admitted to using a syringe to plunge a lethal cocktail of painkillers, tranquilizers and sleeping pills mixed with alcohol and orange juice down the boy's throat inside their $2,300-a-night suite at the luxury Peninsula Hotel in Manhattan in February 2010…

prosecutors argued that as her autistic son was dying, she used her laptop to pull $125,000 from his trust fund, New York Daily News reported.

Jordan was sentenced to 18 years in prison on the manslaughter charge, but a Manhattan federal judge in 2020 granted bail amid her ongoing appeals for a new trial.

Her appeals focused on 15 minutes during which the courtroom was briefly closed to the public during her trial.

Citing unnamed officials, WNBC reported that Jordan was found dead in a bathtub, with a note nearby, just five minutes after midnight Friday morning inside a Brooklyn residence she was renting. Not immediately ruled a suicide, a medical examiner will determine the official cause of death.

https://www.yahoo.com/news/nyc-millionaire-pharma-executive-convicted-130107224.html

censorship: **(Re: (rebel media breaks it down better) Reeducation camps: agreeing with the Official Opposition and criticizing major government figures can result in having professional license revoked according ot jordan peterson, jan.3rd**

Jordan Peterson, an Ontario licensed clinical psychologist and staunch free-speech advocate, is having his speech compelled by his governing body, the **College of Psychologists of Ontario** (CPO).

He is being compelled to take a course to correct his thought crimes, which allegedly involved re-tweeting Conservative Party of Canada Leader Pierre Poilievre and being skeptical of the Justin Trudeau Liberals.

rebelnewsdotcom/
the_thought_police_come_for_jordan_peterson

Thread

Dr Jordan B Peterson @jordanbpeterson · Jan 3

We are now in a situation in Canada under @JustinTrudeau where practicing professionals can have their livelihoods and public reputations threatened in a very serious manner for agreeing with the Official Opposition and criticizing major government figures.

351.9K 256 1,975 9,671

Dr Jordan B Peterson @jordanbpeterson · Jan 3

If I comply the terms of my re-education and my punishment will be announced publicly. I have already had the second most serious category of punishment levied against me and have been deemed at high risk to "re-offend."

294.8K 112 584 6,164

Dr Jordan B Peterson @jordanbpeterson · Jan 3

Canadians: your physicians, lawyers, psychologists and other professionals are now so intimidated by their commissar overlords that they fear to tell you the truth. This means that your care and legal counsel has been rendered dangerously unreliable.

393.8K 198 2,591 11.9K

Dr Jordan B Peterson @jordanbpeterson · Jan 3

Ask Queen's U law@professor @PardyBruce if he concurs on the legal front.

401.7K 37 402 5,370

Dr Jordan B Peterson @jordanbpeterson · Jan 3

To reiterate: I face public disgrace, mandatory political re-education, disciplinary hearing and potential loss of my clinical licensing for agreeing with @PierrePoilievre and criticizing our standing PM @JustinTrudeau

858.9K 706 2,552 11.4K

Dr Jordan B Peterson @jordanbpeterson · Jan 3

I am willing (if @CPOntario concurs, which they won't) to make absolutely every word of all this fully public so that everyone can decide for themselves what is actually happening

Sanctions, Russia, energy, war: jan4 'Electric Shocked' - 88% Of New Cars Sold In Norway Are EVs

https://www.statista.com/chartoftheday/

energy, sanctions, censorship: this is an embarrassment to not just this proivince, but this entire country: "2 stalled LNG projects in Nova Scotia may be on the brink of revival"

cbcdotca/news/canada/nova-scotia/2-lng-proposals-could-move-forward-bear-head-goldboro-1.6447671

stats, media: jan4 England Sees 39% Rise In Children Needing Help For Serious Mental Health Problems

Figures show more than a million children need treatment for serious mental health problems, including eating disorders, in the time since lockdowns were imposed in England.

NHS data analysed by the PA news agency show a 39 percent rise in a year in referrals for NHS mental health treatment for under-18s, to 1,169,515 in 2021 to 2022.

This compares with the previous year of 2020 to 2021, when the figure was 839,570. In 2019 to 2020 there were 850,741 referrals.

From 2020 to early 2022 the UK government imposed multiple COVID-19 lockdowns and restrictions.

The England-wide data include children who are suicidal, self-harming, suffering serious depression or anxiety, and those with eating disorders.

Hospital admissions for eating disorders were also found to be increasing among under-18s.

There were 7,719 admissions in 2021/22, up from 6,079 the previous year, and 4,232 in 2019/20, an 82 percent rise across two years.

‘Heightened Sense of Anxiety and Loss of Control’

Elaine Lockhart, chairwoman of the child and adolescent psychiatry faculty at the Royal College of Psychiatrists, said the rise in referrals for children and

young people reflects a “whole range” of illnesses including psychosis, suicidal thoughts, and severe anxiety disorder.

Lockhart said children and young people’s mental health had been getting worse before the pandemic.

“When the lockdowns and pandemic struck, that really had such a negative effect on a lot of children,” she added.

“Those who had been doing well became vulnerable and those were vulnerable became unwell,” she said.

“And part of that was about children themselves feeling very untethered from the day-to-day life that supports them, but also seeing their own parents struggle, and then that collective heightened sense of anxiety and loss of control we all had really affected children,” said Lockhart.

The data show that anorexia is the most common eating disorder leading to hospital admission among all ages, with 10,808 admissions in 2021/22.

Bulimia is the next most common, with 5,563, while other eating disorders accounted for 12,893 admissions.

Exacerbated

Gary Sidley, a retired clinical psychologist and HART member, has warned of the increase in emotional distress of the British people throughout the pandemic via COVID-19 restrictions.

HART was set up by medical and health professionals to share concerns about policy and guidance recommendations relating to the COVID-19 pandemic.

“The people who are prone to eating disorders, it is a common theme that they have this kind of inflated desire to try and get control over their life and their environment because they kind of sense that everything is out of control,” Sidley told The Epoch Times.

“And therefore what happens is that they focus on their one narrow aspect, eating, and try and control that. That’s often a key thing underpinning eating disorders,” he said.

“The restrictions generally including lockdowns and the unpredictability of them and the nonsensical nature of them, would have exacerbated that kind of concern about being out of control,” *he added.*

In 2021 and in September 2022, HART wrote that mounting evidence of harms to children over the past two years suggests that the government response “placed too much weight on the need to protect vulnerable adults at the expense of the less immediately obvious (but more long-term) damage to the well-being and futures of our children and young people.”

“With children confined to their homes and isolated from community life, statutory and third-party services pared back or online, and many strategies used to ameliorate mental health difficulties banned or restricted (eg sport, family connection, school engagement, socialising), many children and young people were left to cope with deteriorating mental health without adequate support,” the group wrote.

“Again, the most disadvantaged children suffered the most,” *HART added.*

‘The Trends Have Been Going Up’

Agnes Ayton, study lead and chair of the Eating Disorders Faculty at the Royal College of Psychiatrists said that a number of factors can affect a child’s chance of developing an eating disorder.

This can include genetics, social media, anxiety, and weight-loss advertising.

“The numbers, the trends, are going up. There definitely has been an impact of the pandemic but the trends have been going up since way before then,” she said.

“There is no indication that the figures will go down without a strategy that includes prevention, improved treatment, better access to effective inpatient treatment, and better research facilities,” *she added.*

A Department of Health and Social Care spokesman said: “Improving eating disorders services is a key priority and we’re investing £53 million per year in children and young people’s community eating disorder services to increase capacity in 70 community teams across the country.

“We are already investing £2.3 billion a year into mental health services, meaning an additional 345,000 children and young people will be able to access support by 2024—and we’re aiming to grow the mental health workforce by 27,000 more staff by this time too.”

War, Germany, Russia: jan4 Poland Furious After Germany Rejects Government's €1.3 Trillion WWII Reparations Claim

“To dismiss that with just one sentence means that all assurances about excellent German-Polish relations are false,” said Mularczyk.

War, Russia: jan4 Russian Military Faces Rare Outrage At Home After Devastating Barracks Attack

The weekend strike on a Russian conscript barracks in Makiivka in Donetsk region which left possibly hundreds killed has sparked rare backlash and fury inside Russia, with even hardcore nationalists demanding answers and accountability of the military and government.

Russia had initially given an official death toll from the attack, which was allegedly conducted with US-supplied HIMARS rocket launchers, of 63 soldiers killed while Ukraine claims that it was actually up to 400. Later on Tuesday, the defense ministry **upgraded the death toll to 89**.

Some Russian military bloggers agree that it was likely more in the hundreds range, and have **condemned military commanders for garrisoning troops in what's being widely described as an unprotected building easily exposed to strikes**, which also may have had an ammunition depot positioned dangerously next to it.

"And no, not Ukrainian," Sukonkin wrote on Telegram. "The Armed Forces of Ukraine are acting as they should — they are trying to kill our soldiers. ***But their real killer is the scoundrel who positioned the fighters in such a way that it was easy for the enemy to shoot them****."*

While Putin long ago warned that the Ukraine special operation, which only at the end of last year he called a "war" for the first time, would be a long haul mission, many hawks in Russia believe the military is holding back too much, and that a larger-scale operation should be ordered.

With the Russian invasion stalemated, and huge losses such as suffered at Makiivka in the New Year attack, are we about to witness a full formal declaration of war by Putin?

Stats, war, energy, sanctions: CBC, 1200 comments for halifax warm weather article: "Saturday will break the record for the latest date into winter without having at least two centimetres of snow on the ground at the Halifax Stanfield International Airport"

"While the rest of the country is getting walloped by snow and ice, Nova Scotia is an outlier."

cbcdotca/news/canada/nova-scotia/halifax-is-about-to-set-record-for-lack-of-snow-1.6700292

war, Germany, stats, sanctions: **just noticed that there's no bases in france....hmm...**

USA's Military Empire: A Visual Database
The United States of America, unlike any other nation, maintains a massive network of foreign military installations around the world.
How was this created and how is it continued? Some of these physical installations are on land occupied as spoils of war. Most are maintained through collaborations with governments, many of them brutal and oppressive governments benefiting from the bases' presence. In many cases, human beings were displaced to make room for these military installations, often depriving people of farmland, adding huge amounts of pollution to local water systems and the air, and existing as an unwelcome presence.
To explore this database, click on map markers or use the dashboard to make selections:
Learn About US Military Bases
View Mode: Hybrid Map Only Satellite Only List
Lisbon, Portugal (Portugal)
Visit Base
Personnel (estimated) in Portugal: 256
Total Land (in acres, estimated) in Portugal: 1445
Government Type: Flawed democracy
Sources: Vine, 1776-1903 in Vine's sheet 2020
Select by: Country Government Type
Opening Date Personnel
Total Land in Acres Reset Selections
Showing all 748 results
FINLAND
BELARUS
UKRAINE
MOROCCO
ALGERIA
mapbox
7:07 PM
1/3/2023

Censorship, stats, media: 1 in 6 women are raped at one point in their lives in the united states (seriously..)
https://www.rainn.org/statistics/victims-sexual-violence

markets, war, inflation, government: Wipeout! Global Bonds And Stocks Suffer $18 Trillion Wipeout In 2022 (MSCI All Country World Index Down >20% In 2022)

tech, markets, government: Amazon loses half of its value, plunging 51%, the worst drop off since the tech bubble burst in 2000

tumbled 51% in 2022, marking the biggest decline since 2000, when it plunged 80%

censorship, vaccine, health: AB 2098 California law now in effect – doctors – misinformation or disinformation related to COVID-19

“Assembly Bill 2098 provides that the dissemination of misinformation or disinformation related to COVID-19 by physicians and surgeons to a patient under their direct care constitutes unprofessional conduct,” Newsom said in a statement.

Newsom specified that AB 2098 only applies to “discussions directly related to COVID-19 treatment within a direct physician-patient relationship.”

“The spread of misinformation and disinformation about COVID-19 vaccines has weakened public confidence and placed lives at serious risk. Major news outlets have reported that some of the most dangerous propagators of inaccurate information regarding the COVID-19 vaccines are licensed health care professionals.”

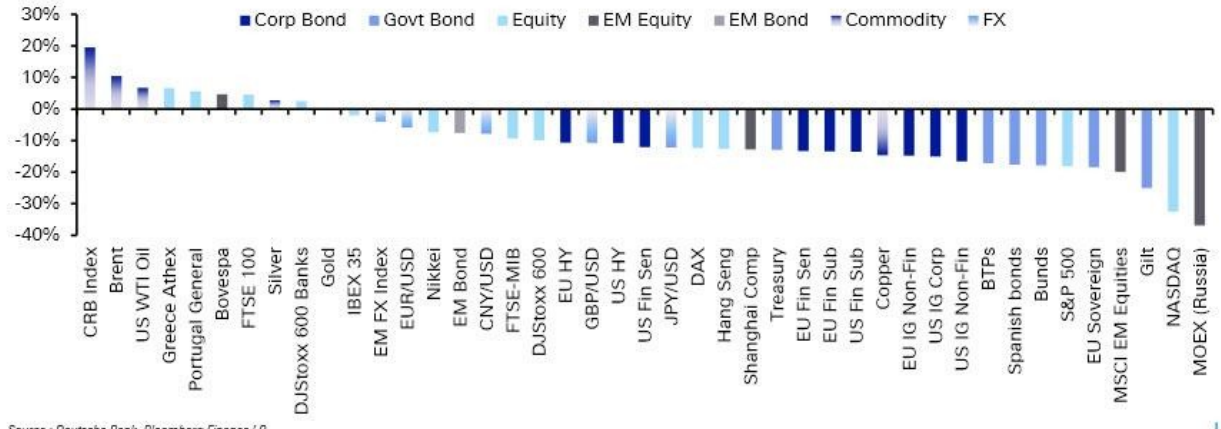
Vaccine, media: Athletes who Died/Collapsed Suddenly in last 12 months

investmentwatchblogdotcom/athletes-who-died-collapsed-suddenly-in-last-12-months/

markets, government, inflation: jan3

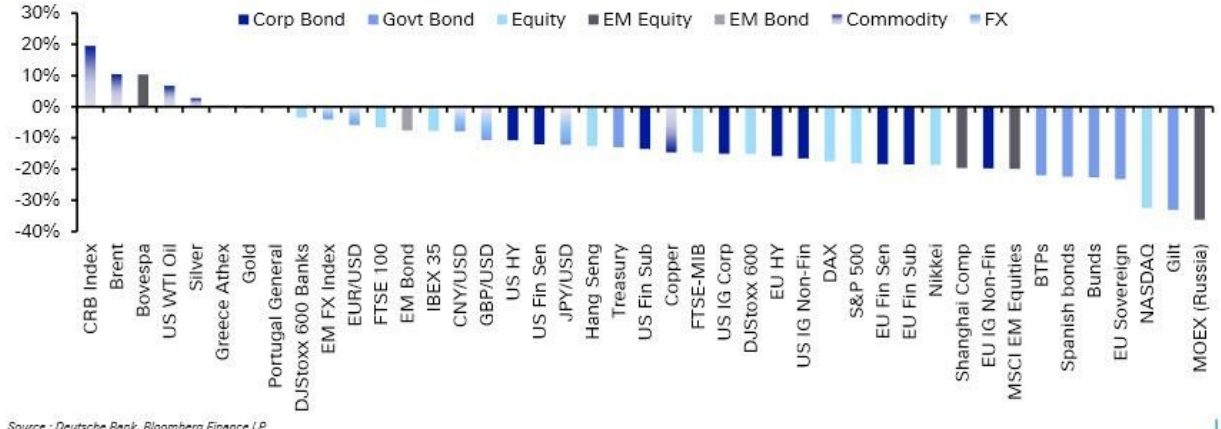
2022 market in review: S&P 500 saw its worst annual performance since 2008, global bonds fall into a bear market for the 1st time in 70 years (worst year for 10yr Treasuries on a total return basis since 1788); inflation key driver in market turmoil and central bank tightening; Bitcoin down -64.3%, Ethereum down -67.5%; Brent crude surpasses $100/bbl for the first time since 2014

Figure 5: Total Return Performance of Major Global Financial Assets in 2022 (in Local Currency)



Source : Deutsche Bank, Bloomberg Finance LP

Figure 6: Total Return Performance of Major Global Financial Assets in 2022 (in USD)



Source : Deutsche Bank, Bloomberg Finance LP

The biggest driver of this was much stronger-than-expected inflation, which hit multi-decade highs and led central banks to embark on their most aggressive tightening cycle in a generation. In the meantime, investors also had to grapple with geopolitical turmoil, since Russia's invasion of Ukraine led to massive spikes in energy and food prices that particularly hit emerging market economies. That meant commodities were among the few assets that ended the year in positive territory. **But elsewhere, the picture was far less rosy, and just 9 of the 38 non-currency assets in DB's sample made gains over 2022 as a whole, whilst in USD terms it was just 6 out of 38.**

The start of the year contained much of the themes that continued over the rest of 2022, with January seeing central banks pivot in a hawkish direction in response to continued and persistent inflation. For instance, investors initially expected the Fed to hike by just 74bps over 2022 as a whole, which was roughly in line with the FOMC dot plot from December 2021 that pointed to three 25bp hikes. But by the end of January, futures were pricing 123bps of hikes by year-end, with an initial rate hike widely expected for March.

That trend continued into early February, with growing speculation that the Fed might start the hiking cycle with a larger-than-usual 50bp hike. But by mid-February there were growing warnings that Russia was about to invade Ukraine, which then occurred on February 24. That led commodity prices to surge, with **Brent crude surpassing $100/bbl for the first time since 2014, before peaking at an intraday high for the year at $139/bbl on March 7**. Other commodities also spiked, including European natural gas, and various agricultural goods such as wheat.

This rise in commodity prices created a fresh dilemma for central banks. On the one hand, they were unable to directly deal with the supply shock, but its consequences were being seen through higher inflation, creating the risk that inflation would become increasingly entrenched over time. With inflation concerns dominating the growth worries, the Fed began its hiking cycle in March with a 25bps move. **However, on March 29 the US 2s10s yield curve inverted for the first time of this cycle, which was a concerning sign given that it had inverted prior to all of the last 10 US recessions.**

By the end of Q1, markets had put in a pretty poor performance, but in Q2 it was even worse. Once again, the catalyst for this was stubbornly persistent inflation, and there was a massive slump in mid-June after the US CPI release for May came out. That showed inflation surprising to the upside yet again, which in turn prompted the Fed to ratchet up the pace of rate hikes to 75bps for the first time since the 1990s as they sought to get inflation back to target. **The prospect of 75bp hikes triggered sizeable losses, with the S&P 500 falling by more than -10% in the space of a week, which was the first time that had happened since the pandemic turmoil of March 2020.** At the same time, yields on 10yr Treasuries rose to 3.50%, their highest intraday level in over a decade.

Following the awful H1 performance, there were growing hopes by the summer that the Fed might soon begin pivoting in a dovish direction. Falling energy prices helped to boost that narrative, and the US CPI report for July showed the first monthly decline in prices since May 2020. **But any hopes of that were firmly stamped out by a hawkish speech from Fed Chair Powell at Jackson Hole, where he said that getting back to price stability would "likely require maintaining a restrictive policy stance for some time."** The ECB also hiked rates for the first time in over a decade, opening with a 50bps move in July and following up with a 75bps move in September.

Another feature of Q3 was growing fears about a potential recession, particularly after the Nord Stream gas pipeline from Russia was suspended. At their peak, **European natural gas futures rose above €300 per megawatt-hour, which ledEuropean governments to step in to protect consumers and businesses from the impact of higher energy prices.** Later in the quarter, there was then a fresh bout of turmoil centred on the UK, after the government unveiled the biggest package of tax cuts in half a century. Sterling hit an all-time intraday low against the dollar and there was a large spike in gilt yields that prompted a Bank of England intervention. The turmoil did subside after the government U-turned on the bulk of the announcements, with Liz Truss succeeded as PM by Rishi Sunak. But even with the stabilization in Q4, gilts were still down -25.0% over 2022 as a whole.

This backdrop meant that Q4 started on a rough note, with the S&P 500 hitting its closing low for the year shortly afterwards on October 12. **However, markets were more resilient after that as both the October and November CPI readings from the US surprised on the downside, leading to growing hopes that we might have finally seen "peak inflation".** That was echoed in the Euro Area too, where inflation fell from a peak of +10.6% in October to +10.1% in November. With inflation falling back, both the Fed and the ECB stepped down to 50bp hikes in December, but they remained hawkish in both cases, signalling further rate hikes ahead in 2023. The Bank of Japan also joined in the action right at the end of the year, announcing in a surprise move on December 20 that they were adjusting their yield curve control policy, with the 10yr yield now able to rise to 0.5%, having been limited to 0.25% before. **However, even with the hawkish moves in December, Q4 still marked the only quarter of the year where markets had a broadly positive performance, with each of the S&P 500, the STOXX 600 and US Treasuries seeing a positive quarterly performance for the first time this year**.

Which assets saw the biggest gains of 2022?

- **Commodities:** In a rough year more broadly, commodities were one of the few asset classes to post consistent gains in 2022. A big factor in that was Russia's invasion of Ukraine, which led to a major spike in energy and food prices in Q1, which then unwound somewhat as the year went on. Nevertheless, Brent Crude (+10.5%) and WTI (+6.7%) still posted gains for the year, as did corn (+14.4%) and wheat (+2.8%) prices. For metals there was a more mixed performance

however. Some such as platinum (+10.9%) performed very strongly, but gold (-0.3%) saw little movement and copper (-14.6%) posted its first annual decline since 2018.

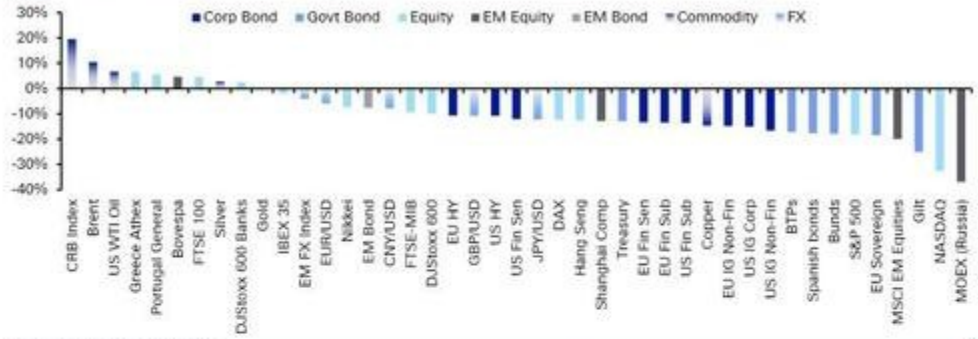
- **US Dollar:** With the Fed hiking rates and moving faster than other central banks, the US Dollar was a major outperformer in 2022. The dollar index (+8.2%) posted its biggest annual advance since 2015, and the dollar itself strengthened against every other G10 currency over the year.

Which assets saw the biggest losses of 2022?

- **Equities**: An aggressive campaign of rate hikes and growing fears of a recession meant it was a rough year for equities. The S&P 500 (-18.1%) saw its biggest annual decline in total return terms since 2008, despite a +7.5% gain in Q4. Over in Europe, the STOXX 600 fell -9.9% over the year, and there was little respite in emerging markets either, with the MSCI EM index down -19.9%.
- **Sovereign Bonds:** After a multi-decade bull run, 2022 was an incredibly bad year for sovereign bonds. For instance, Bloomberg's index of US Treasuries (-12.5%) posted its worst annual performance since data begins in 1973, and the iBoxx series was also down -12.9%. Longer-term data showed that **it was the worst year for 10yr Treasuries on a total return basis since 1788.** Euro sovereign bonds saw even larger declines, with a -18.4% decline thanks to losses in every single quarter, whilst gilts fell -25.0% amidst the turmoil in the UK.
- **Credit:** It was a very bad year for credit, with losses across all of the USD, EUR and GBP indices we follow. GBP credit saw some of the biggest declines, with GBP IG non-fin down -20.4%. However, high-yield credit was a relative outperformer across different regions, with EUR HY only down -10.6%, and US HY only down -10.7%.
- **Cryptocurrencies**: The risk-off moves more broadly proved bad news for cryptocurrencies, with Bitcoin down -64.3% to close the year at $16,540, having started the year at $46,334. This pattern was echoed among other cryptocurrencies, with Ethereum down -67.5%, Litecoin down -52.0%, and XRP down -58.7%.

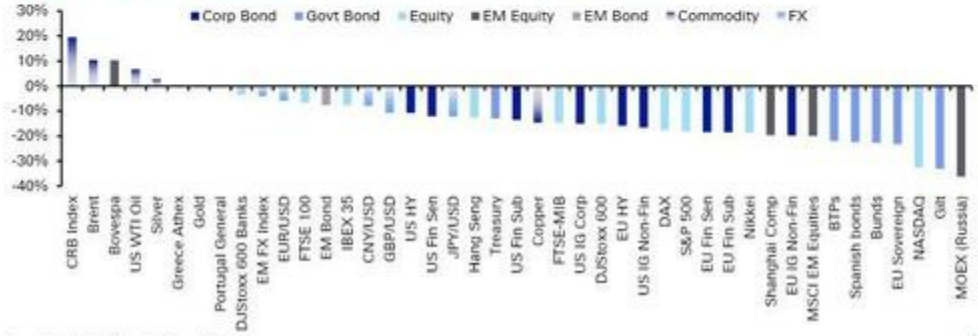
Best and worst performing assets in December (local currency and USD)

Figure 5: Total Return Performance of Major Global Financial Assets in 2022 (in Local Currency)



Source : Deutsche Bank, Bloomberg Finance LP

Figure 6: Total Return Performance of Major Global Financial Assets in 2022 (in USD)



Source : Deutsche Bank, Bloomberg Finance LP

Best and worst performing assets in 2022 (local currency and USD)

Germany, Russia, sanctions, war, energy: jan3 Germany Stops Importing Oil From Russia Via Pipeline

Last month, Germany and Poland reached an agreement that would see Poland supply enough crude to the Schwedt refinery to run at a capacity of 70% from January, meaning it will no longer need Russian crude.

Europe will find it difficult to replace Russian crude oil and product supply once the full effect of the EU embargoes on Russian petroleum products is felt, Russian Deputy Prime Minister Alexander Novak said last week.

Markets, inflation, government: read later: Money-Supply Growth Turns Negative For First Time In 33 Years

During the thirteen months between April 2020 and April 2021, money supply growth in the United States often climbed above 35 percent year over year, well above even the "high" levels experienced from 2009 to 2013.

https://mises.org/wire/money-supply-growth-turns-negative-first-time-33-years

censorship, media, government, stats: The GayBCs: a real-life childrens book

investmentwatchblogdotcom/theyre-not-coming-for-your-kids-thats-a-conspiracy-theory/

vaccine, government, censorship: Kamala Harris is demanding a negative COVID test if newly-elected senators want a photo taken with her

dailymaildotcodotuk/news/article-11592451/Kamala-Harris-demanding-negative-COVID-test-new-senators-want-photos-ceremony.html

planet, government, energy: nciue climate change article

Discredited 'Population Bomb' Author Predicts "End Of The Civilization We're Used To" On 60 Minutes

BY TYLER DURDEN
TUESDAY, JAN 03, 2023 - 12:05 PM

Authored by Paul Joseph Watson via Summit News,

Author Paul Ehrlich, whose 1968 book 'The Population Bomb' predicted environmental catastrophes that never happened, appeared on 60 Minutes to warn of "the end of the kind of civilization we'

Ehrlich's conversation with CBS host Scott Pelley centered around the narrative that human population growth will be too much for the Earth to sustain, despite the fact that it is set to peak at 9 billion people before rapidly declining.

“Too many people, too much consumption and growth mania” is killing the planet and devastating wildlife according to Ehrlich.

“Humanity is not sustainable. To maintain our lifestyle (yours and mine, basically) for the entire planet, you’d need five more Earths. Not clear where they’re gonna come from,” he claimed.

Despite charges of alarmism, the author defiantly asserted, “I was alarmed. I am still alarmed. All of my colleagues are alarmed” (seemingly unaware that the definition of alarmism is to grossly exaggerate something that isn’t true).

“I know there’s no political will to do any of the things that I’m concerned with, which is exactly why I and the vast majority of my colleagues think we’ve had it; that the next few decades will be the end of the kind of civilization we’re used to,” Ehrlich absurdly claimed.

“The five mass extinctions of the ancient past were caused by natural calamities —volcanoes, and an asteroid. Today, if the science is right, humanity may have to survive a sixth mass extinction in a world of its own making,” he added.

Enrivonmental author Michael Shellenberger responded to the segment by documenting how Ehrlich’s claims were “totally & utterly false” and accusing CBS of pushing “apocalyptic pseudoscience.”

Elon Musk, who has warned about the dangers of population decline, agreed, tweeting, “Absolutely.”

Ehrlich is still treated as a credible voice by the legacy media despite his previous predictions proving to be completely laughable.

In his 1968 book The Population Bomb, Ehrlich ludicrously claimed “hundreds of millions of people are going to starve to death” by the 1980’s because of overpopulation.

It never happened.

Similarly, in 2004, climate change “experts” claimed that by 2020, “major European cities will be sunk beneath rising seas as Britain is plunged into a ‘Siberian’ climate by 2020”.

It never happened.

In 2013, Al Gore claimed that the Arctic would have “ice free” summers by 2013.

It never happened, in fact measurements taken by the EU’s Earth observation programme last year showed that Arctic sea ice was just 3 per cent below its 30 year average.

None of it ever happens, but that doesn’t stop people like Ehrlich continually spewing doomsday rhetoric in order to advance the narrative that living standards must be drastically reduced in the name of saving the planet.

They should have all been dismissed as wild cranks years ago, but the legacy media is still treating them like they have a shred of credibility left when they clearly don’t.

Sanctions, war, markets, Russia: jan3 "The risk of extreme market tightness that people were worried about before the winter started seems low now.", BloombergNEF's Abhishek Rohatgi wrote

Stats, war: f-35 to cost 75 million per plane

thedefensepostdotcom/2023/01/02/us-f35-lockheed-martin/

middle east, war: intel officer killed in prison, name not released, say he committed serious offenses

timesofisraeldotcom/in-rare-move-idf-to-list-former-intel-officer-who-died-in-jail-as-fallen-soldier/

Russia, war: Ukrainian Attack Cut Power in Russian Region for a Time, not independentanly verified by reuters

https://www.usnews.com/news/world/articles/2023-01-02/ukrainian-attack-cut-power-in-russian-region-for-a-time-governor

china, war: Japan's government embraces counter-strike strategy for first time since 1945

The guidelines, fervently backed by the U.S. government and the DC think tanks representing the military industrial complex, are the last nails in the coffin of Japan’s Peace

Constitution, which only allows Japan to take military action in self-defense. That document was imposed by U.S. Occupation forces after the war and has been in the cross-hairs of both the Pentagon and Kishida's ruling Liberal Democratic Party since the 1970s.

First, it declares that China is now Japan's number one threat and poses "the greatest strategic challenges ever seen" in Tokyo. North Korea, which has traditionally been mentioned first as a hostile state, now represents a "severe and imminent threat."

"With the security environment surrounding Japan becoming unstable amid threats from China, North Korea and Russia, Tokyo, which has rejected warfare for the past 77 years, will be able to directly attack another country's territory in case of an emergency," *Kyodo News* explained.

timshorrockdotcom/2022/12/23/japan-crosses-the-rubicon/

stats: found the perfect website for military, blog run by some guy who just lays it all out

timshorrockdotcom/2016/12/08/oligarchy-of-spies-the-five-companies-that-dominate-the-u-s-intelligence-industry/

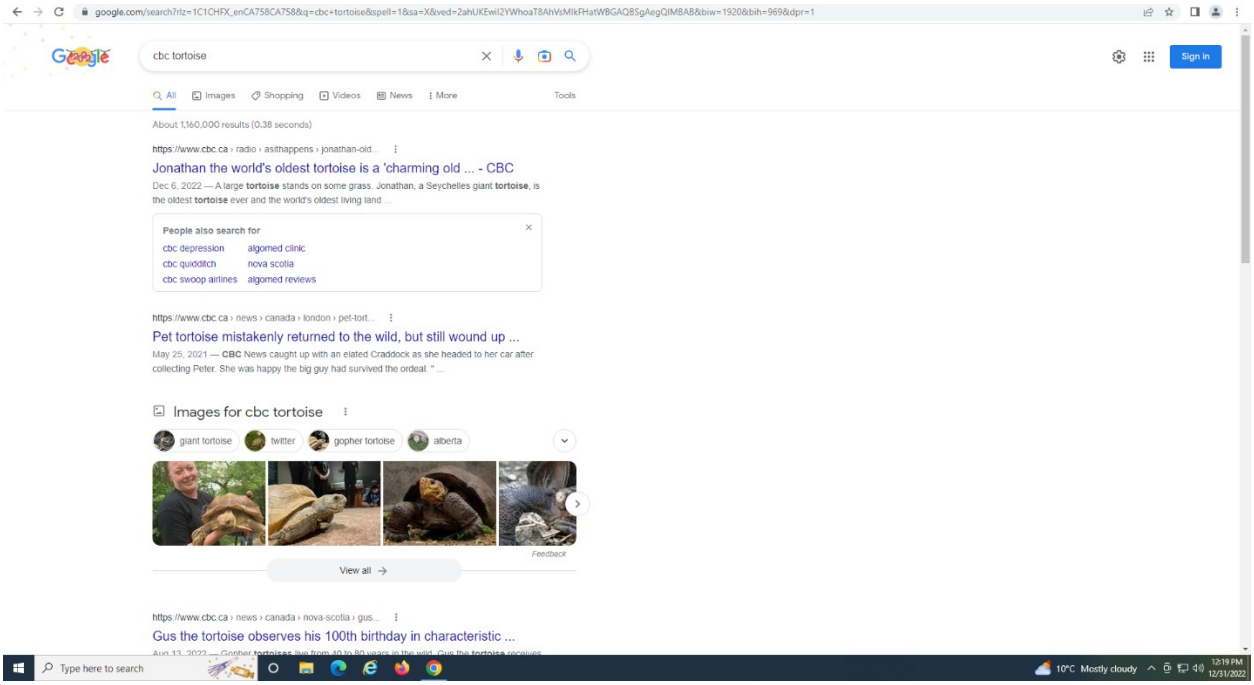
stats, war, history, censorship, vaccine: "spy agencies began outsourcing their core analytic and operational work in the late 1990s." shorrock

bulk of the contracted work goes to a handful of companies: Leidos, Booz Allen Hamilton, General Dynamics/CSRA, SAIC, and CACI International. This concentration of "pure plays"—a Wall Street term for companies that makes one product for a single market

—marks a fundamental shift in an industry that was once a highly diverse mix of large military contractors, small and medium technology companies, and tiny "Beltway Bandits" surrounding Washington, D.C.

stats, censorship: **"The past was erased, the erasure was forgotten, the lie became the truth." – George Orwell, 1984**

"Great is truth, but still greater, from a practical point of view, is silence about truth." — Aldous Huxley, Brave New World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Jonathan the world's oldest tortoise is a 'charming old ... - CBC
Dec 6, 2022 — A large tortoise stands on some grass. Jonathan, a Seychelles giant tortoise, is the oldest tortoise ever and the world's oldest living land ...
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cbc swoop airlines
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Pet tortoise mistakenly returned to the wild, but still wound up ...
May 25, 2021 — CBC News caught up with an elated Craddock as she headed to her car after collecting Peter. She was happy the big guy had survived the ordeal. " ...
Images for cbc tortoise
giant tortoise
twitter
gopher tortoise
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Gus the tortoise observes his 100th birthday in characteristic ...
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12/31/2022

The humorous phrase uttered by George Costanza on a sitcom twenty-seven years ago captures a significant kernel of truth about the mindset of the vast majority of non-critical thinking drones roaming the aisles of Wal-Marts and waiting in the drive-thru at McDonalds across our dystopian states of America. The lies run so deep you need hip-boots to wade through them on a daily basis. The reason our leaders lie is because we let them lie. The majority prefer comforting lies to unpleasant truths, because accepting unpleasant truths would require them to act and they prefer being distracted by trivialities like sports, reality TV, social media likes and otherwise being addicted to their technological gadgets.

Jim Quinn: It's Not A Lie If You Believe It

BY TYLER DURDEN
FRIDAY, DEC 30, 2022 - 05:25 PM

Authored by Jim Quinn via The Burning Platform blog,

"The past was erased, the erasure was forgotten, the lie became the truth." – **George Orwell, 1984**

"Great is truth, but still greater, from a practical point of view, is silence about truth." **— Aldous Huxley, Brave New World**

I wish I could go through a day without having to reference Orwell and Huxley when observing how the ruling class is able to manipulate, subjugate, and propagandize the willfully ignorant masses through lies, deceptions, disinformation, and fear. But here we are, living through a dystopian nightmare blending the worst aspects of Orwell's 1984 and Huxley's Brave New World.

It's as if O'Brien and Mustapha Mond are running the show, using behavioral conditioning, restricting freedom of speech, adhering to a strict caste system, surveilling everything we say or do, using our fears to control us, utilizing propaganda to produce false narratives, and ultimately threatening to stomp a boot on our faces forever if we do not obey and conform. Virtually everything we are told by politicians, government bureaucrats, military brass, "esteemed"

journalists, medical “experts”, bankers, and corporate executives is lies. They do not believe their lies, but they know it benefits themselves financially to lie, and as long as they work together, they know the ignorant masses will believe them.

George tells Jerry “It’s not a lie if you believe it” as he is going to take a lie detector test. I wonder how Fauci, Biden, Hillary, Obama, Comey, Wray, Pelosi, and the slew of other Deep State coup conspirators would fare on a lie detector test about Russiagate, Covidgate, J6 Insurrectiongate, and Vaccinegate. Based on the titanic volume of lies they have spewed over the last several years, I’m sure the machine would overheat and explode if hooked up to any of this traitorous vile scum.

The humorous phrase uttered by George Costanza on a sitcom twenty-seven years ago captures a significant kernel of truth about the mindset of the vast majority of non-critical thinking drones roaming the aisles of Wal-Marts and waiting in the drive-thru at McDonalds across our dystopian states of America. The lies run so deep you need hip-boots to wade through them on a daily basis. The reason our leaders lie is because we let them lie. The majority prefer comforting lies to unpleasant truths, because accepting unpleasant truths would require them to act and they prefer being distracted by trivialities like sports, reality TV, social media likes and otherwise being addicted to their technological gadgets.

“The process of mass-media deception has to be conscious, or it would not be carried out with sufficient precision, but it also has to be unconscious, or it

would bring with it a feeling of falsity and hence of guilt.… To tell deliberate lies while genuinely believing in them, to forget any fact that has become inconvenient, and then, when it becomes necessary again, to draw it back from oblivion for just so long as it is needed, to deny the existence of objective reality and all the while to take account of the reality which one denies all this is indispensably necessary." **– George Orwell**

Orwell's explanation of mass-media deception is a brilliant assessment of how the ruling class changes the narrative to suit their needs, and without blinking an eye are able to deny what they have said and done. Orwell saw this manipulation of the truth before TV, the internet, social media, or professionally created government propaganda existed. In his day only newspapers, radio, and speeches existed to push deception upon the public.

The proliferation of technologically enhanced mass-media deception has accomplished everything the ruling class/oligarchs/Big Brother surveillance state could hope for. Lies and deception are nothing more than a means to their ends of control, wealth, and power. Right and wrong; good and evil; justice and injustice; truth and falsity; humanity and inhumanity; are meaningless concepts to the corrupt, greedy, power hungry, immoral, deviant, evil overlords who wield their wealth to maintain and expand their control over the ignorant masses, unwilling and unable to resist because their indoctrination runs deep, and the unceasing propaganda keeps them confused and angry at phantom enemies.

The perfect example of Orwell's mass media deception in practice has been this entire Covid hoax, which has been built on a foundation of lies from the very beginning. At the outset Fauci scoffed at the concept of masks providing any protection from a microscopic virus while being interviewed on 60 Minutes. He wasn't lying. Numerous scientific studies documented by the CDC proved beyond a doubt, masks are absolutely useless in preventing the spread of viruses. But a few weeks later the covid controllers realized the usefulness of masks as the perfect fear inducing symbol of a fake

pandemic and the first step in demanding compliance and obedience by the masses.

Suddenly Fauci and his Big Pharma bought medical “expert” lackeys discarded the inconvenient facts that masks do not work, and piously preached that everyone must mask or mass death would occur. Any dissenting voice speaking the truth about masks was the enemy and needed to be silenced, scorned, ridiculed, and destroyed. The deception was aided and abetted by Twitter, Facebook, Google and the feckless MSM doing the bidding of the ruling elite, while being paid off by Big Pharma.

This was only the beginning of a worldwide conspiracy of lies. The videos from China of bodies in the streets were fake. Evidently to provoke fear among the global community. The purported origin of the virus being bats in a wet market in Wuhan was a lie concocted by Fauci, Daszik, and their Chinese co-conspirators to cover-up their illegal weaponization of viruses in the Wuhan Bio-weapon lab. **This cover-up was maintained by the dying legacy media, Twitter, Facebook, and Google through the censorship and banning of anyone (ZeroHedge) who dared question the government approved narrative.**

The demand for national lockdowns was built on the lies of Neil Ferguson, a 3rd rate academic, and his fear mongering Imperial College model of deaths if the world didn’t shut down. His ludicrous outcomes, based on false assumptions, were the basis for the disastrous decisions made by corrupt politicians across the world. The results in Sweden, which did not lockdown, have proven his

model to be worthless, and responsible for the destruction of the lives of millions across the globe.

They lied about social distancing, based on a 3rd grade girl's school paper. They used a PCR test improperly to falsely produce "positive" cases in order to terrify the masses into a mass formation psychosis. A case was not a sickness. They drastically overestimated the fatality rate and attributed the deaths of extremely old sick people to covid when they died from their existing malady. Only 6% of covid deaths can be attributed to strictly covid. The overall survival rate if you contracted covid is 99.7%, with anyone under 70 years old 99.9%. Virtually no one under 21 years old died from covid. It was less lethal than the annual flu to young people.

The overlords and their bevy of apparatchik whores in the government, media, and academia needed to ramp up the fear through rising cases, hospitalizations, and deaths in order to get rich off this plandemic, while planting the seeds of their Great Reset scheme to turn the world into a compliant surveillance state. The coup de grace of lies was to be the miraculous "Operation Warpspeed vaccine" which would rid the world of this perilous pestilence. Supposedly brilliant virologists developed amnesia over the concept of herd immunity, which has been known for centuries.

This War on Covid has gone as well as the War on Poverty and the War on Drugs, meaning it has been a complete and utter failure in defeating its supposed foe, but has been hugely successful in enriching politicians, corporations, and the multitude of toadies in the media, academia, and the bureaucracy who perpetuate the lies and disinformation they are paid handsomely to disgorge. **The lies engulfing the supposed vaccine run deep and wide.**

The entire vaccine scheme is built on an altar of lies, mistruths, misinformation, deception, and censorship. mRNA gene therapies have existed for decades and had consistently failed in application as every animal tested using these concoctions died. Pfizer faked their trial data, lied about adverse reactions, lied about long-term safety, lied about effects on pregnant women, and tried to keep these results hidden for seventy-five years. The tripe about these “vaccines” being safe effective has been and continues to be the Big Lie.

The emergency use authorization for these experimental jabs could only be given if there were no existing medications which were an effective treatment for the illness. There were dozens of scientific studies and world-renowned physicians acknowledging the effectiveness of both hydroxychloroquine and ivermectin in treating covid and alleviating its symptoms safely and effectively – and cheaply. That was the real problem. The hundreds of billions in profits to be made by Big Pharma, and then divvied up to politicians, legacy media companies, the FBI, and social media censorship arms of the ruling class, would be impossible if the truth about hydroxychloroquine and ivermectin was allowed to be acknowledged.

Therefore, Fauci and his sycophants claimed they were dangerous, horse de-wormer medicine, and ineffective. Twitter, Facebook, and Google censored and banned doctors who posted anything positive about either treatment. Meanwhile, Fauci sentenced tens of thousands to death by pushing Remdesivir, a treatment he financially benefitted from, and recommending ventilators for those with covid. Fauci sentenced tens of thousands to death by not allowing these treatments to be used. He deserves the same fate for his treacherous actions but is treated like a saint by the left-wing media and the Biden minions.

The biggest Orwellian mass-media deception of them all was what the “experts” unequivocally declared about their glorious vaccines. Just as every vaccine in history was supposed to keep you from contracting the illness you were vaccinated against, Fauci, Biden, Walensky, Gates, the Pfizer CEO, and a myriad of other paid “experts” told the global population they would not contract or spread covid once they were vaxxed. They are on video and in print declaring this to be true.

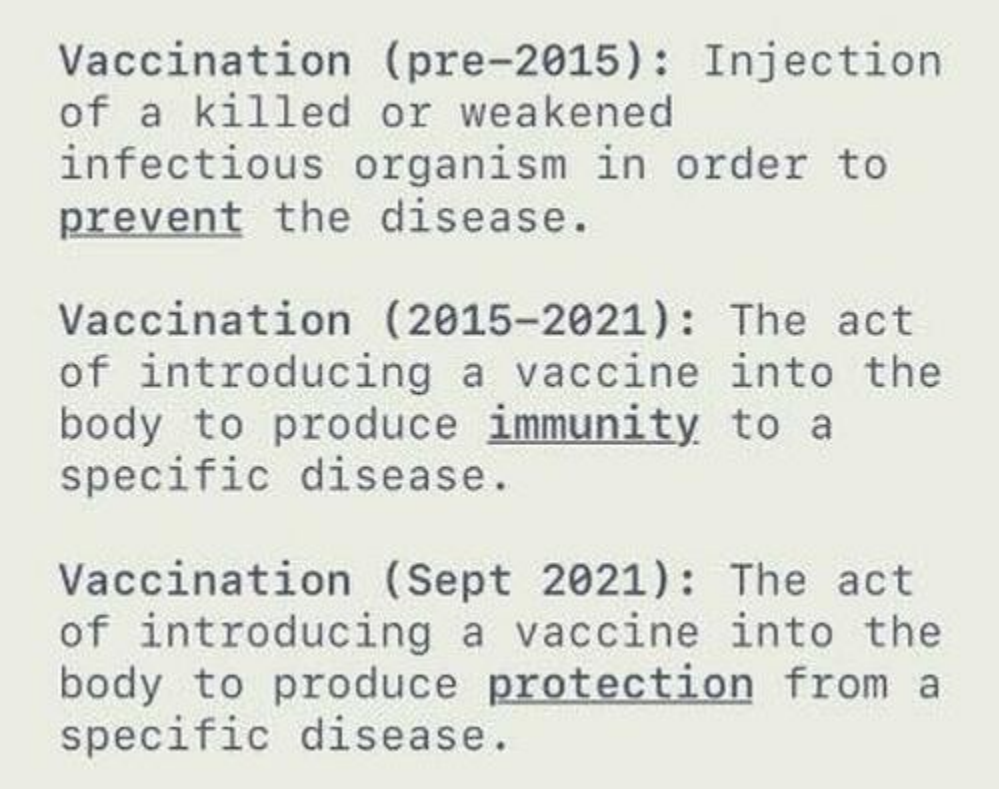
But when it was proven to be not true, they just denied they had ever said so. As long as the masses could be convinced the lie had become the truth, then the lie was the truth, according to the Party and its journalistic narrative guardians. Controlling the narrative through suppressing and censoring the truth is how they continue to maintain control. The release of the Twitter files by Musk confirms every “conspiracy theory” put into the public domain by the naysayers, critical thinkers, and a few honest journalists. They have lied about everything.

"Nobody said you wouldn't get COVID if you're vaccinated!"
Oh, really?
@TheFreeThoughtProject
Dr. Anthony Fauci
(NIAID Director)
"When people are vaccinated they're not going to get infected."
President Joe Biden
(POTUS)
"You're not going to get COVID if you have these vaccinations."
Rochelle Walensky, MD
(CDC Director)
"Vaccinated people do not carry the virus and don't get sick."
Rachel Maddow
(MSNBC News)
"Now we know the vaccines work well enough that the virus stops."
Bill Gates
('Expert')
"Everyone who takes the vaccine is reducing their transmission."
Albert Bourla
(Pfizer CEO)
"There is no variant that escapes the protection of our vaccines."

"And if all others accepted the lie which the Party imposed—if all records told the same tale—then the lie passed into history and became truth. 'Who controls the past' ran the Party slogan, 'controls the future: who controls the present controls the past." **– Orwell**

When confronted by the reality these experimental, toxic, gene altering, spike protein generating brews do not prevent anyone from contracting the virus, being hospitalized by the virus, or dying from the virus, **the powers that be just changed the definition of a vaccine and attempted to alter the narrative and pretend they had never said what they said.** How Orwellian of our Big Brother overlords. The past is alterable in a totalitarian regime.

"The past was alterable. The past never had been altered. Oceania was at war with Eastasia. Oceania had always been at war with Eastasia." **— George Orwell, 1984**


Vaccination (pre-2015): Injection of a killed or weakened infectious organism in order to prevent the disease.
Vaccination (2015-2021): The act of introducing a vaccine into the body to produce immunity to a specific disease.
Vaccination (Sept 2021): The act of introducing a vaccine into the body to produce protection from a specific disease.

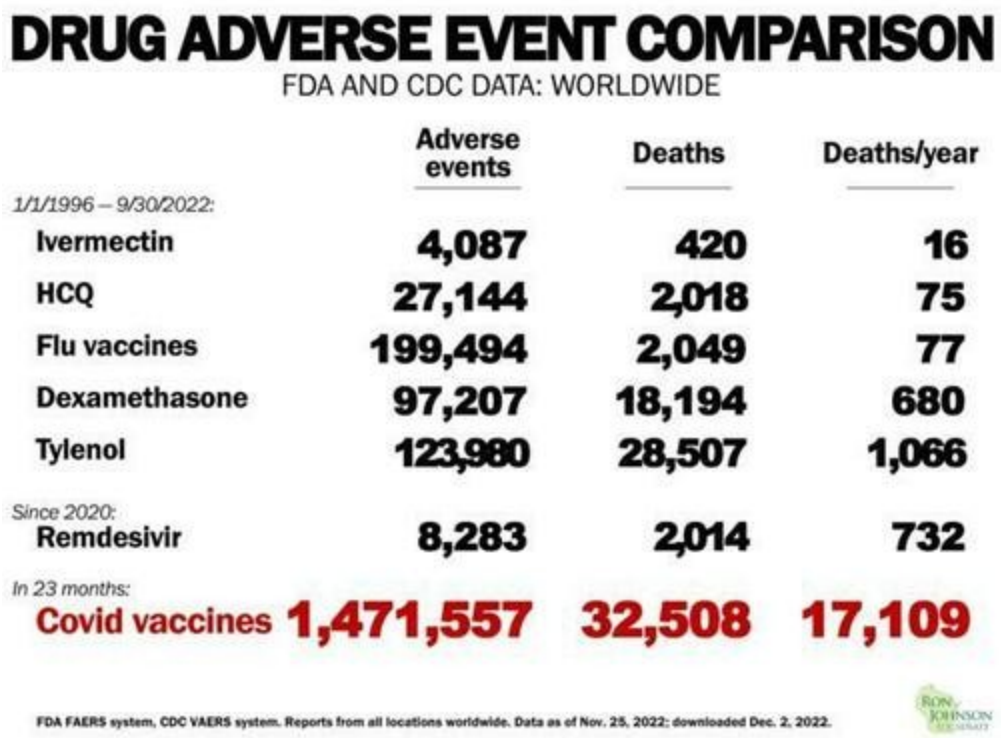
Even the current definition of vaccination is a lie. Not only does it not protect you from the virus, but the Antibody-Dependent Enhancement (ADE), warned about by highly regarded doctors like Robert Malone, Peter McCullough, and Pierre Kory over a year ago, is now happening to the vaxxed and boosted victims. Biden's lie about this being a pandemic of the unvaccinated has transformed to the truth we are experiencing a pandemic of the vaccinated. The vaccinated are now 4x as likely to contract covid as an unvaxxed person who has recovered from covid. Natural immunity, which has protected humanity for centuries, is real and far superior to these Big Pharma jabs.

The cognitive dissonance of the vaxxed runs deep. They are too embarrassed and ashamed to admit they were duped and lied to. How many more young people need to "die suddenly" before they turn on Fauci, Biden, Big Pharma CEOs, media talking heads, politicians, and the sickcare industrial complex, and hold them accountable? Is the mass formation psychosis too ingrained in their psyche to ever revolt?

The lies about the covid vaccines being safe and effective, promulgated through a multi-billion-dollar advertising campaign running non-stop for the last two years, paying famous athletes, Hollywood stars, social media influencers, and unethical doctors, are proving to be the most diabolical and fatal falsehoods ever perpetrated on global humanity. The "effective" nonsense was put to bed last year when covid spread faster after more than half the country was berated

and threatened into getting the jab, then a 2nd jab, then a 3rd jab, and then a booster, because the previous three failed.

And still half the country refuses to accept the truth because they don't want to question the narrative or abandon their fellow vaccine cultists. The "safe" garbage narrative is collapsing on a daily basis as factual data about sudden deaths, real scientific studies proving the extreme dangers of these vaxxes, fertility data, excess mortality data, a constant stream of reports about young people contracting myocarditis, having heart attacks, and developing blood clots, has swamped Fauci and his ship of lying fools – with the ultimate result of breaking the mass formation psychosis of the masses.


DRUG ADVERSE EVENT COMPARISON
FDA AND CDC DATA: WORLDWIDE
Adverse events
Deaths
Deaths/year
1/1/1996 – 9/30/2022:
Ivermectin 4,087 420 16
HCQ 27,144 2,018 75
Flu vaccines 199,494 2,049 77
Dexamethasone 97,207 18,194 680
Tylenol 123,980 28,507 1,066
Since 2020:
Remdesivir 8,283 2,014 732
In 23 months:
Covid vaccines 1,471,557 32,508 17,109
FDA FAERS system, CDC VAERS system. Reports from all locations worldwide. Data as of Nov. 25, 2022; downloaded Dec. 2, 2022.

Essentially, these vaccines are creating a slow-motion mass casualty event, and everyone involved in their premature use in human beings should stand trial for murder, but they won't. That is because the totalitarian Deep State has grown too powerful, too arrogant, and too filled with contempt for those they rule over. They feel invincible, as they blatantly steal elections, keep peaceful protestors in dungeons, assassinate those who might implicate them in child trafficking conspiracies, use the mechanisms of the surveillance state to crush all opposition, and collude with mass media networks and the Silicon Valley mafia media to suppress the truth and censor those who dare question the Deep State sanctioned narrative. The Twitter files confirm the deceit and treason at the highest levels of government, media, and military. Hannah Arendt describes how totalitarian regimes depend on fabrications to maintain their power.

“Before mass leaders seize the power to fit reality to their lies, their propaganda is marked by its extreme contempt for facts as such, for in their opinion fact depends entirely on the power of man who can fabricate it.” **— Hannah Arendt, The Origins of Totalitarianism**

At this point in history virtually everything uttered by the president, any politician, government bureaucrat, media personality, corporate executive, medical “expert”, and faux journalist is a fabrication, exaggeration, disinformation or outright lie. The list of lies is never ending, and has been going on since Adam and Eve, but the quantity and audaciousness of the lies in recent times has accelerated to a point where the totalitarians no longer fear revelations about their lies. They are comfortable knowing the masses will believe absurdities as long as they confirm their ideologies, biases, and beliefs.

The masses do not mind being lied to because they are entranced by narratives created to keep them under control and focused on whichever enemy they are propagandized to hate, whether it be Trump, lockdown and mask dissenters, anti-vaxxers, phantom white supremacists, J6 “insurrectionists”, the Russians, or “election deniers”. Provenly bold faced liars like Biden and Fauci are admired and celebrated for their dedication to the narrative, despite its falseness. It happened in Nazi Germany, Stalinist Soviet Union, Mao’s Communist China, and today as we plunge towards a new world order totalitarianism of unknown outcomes and atrocities.

“Mass propaganda discovered that its audience was ready at all times to believe the worst, no matter how absurd, and did not particularly object to being

deceived because it held every statement to be a lie anyhow. The totalitarian mass leaders based their propaganda on the correct psychological assumption that, under such conditions, one could make people believe the most fantastic statements one day, and trust that if the next day they were given irrefutable proof of their falsehood, they would take refuge in cynicism; instead of deserting the leaders who had lied to them, they would protest that they had known all along that the statement was a lie and would admire the leaders for their superior tactical cleverness." — **Hannah Arendt, The Origins of Totalitarianism**

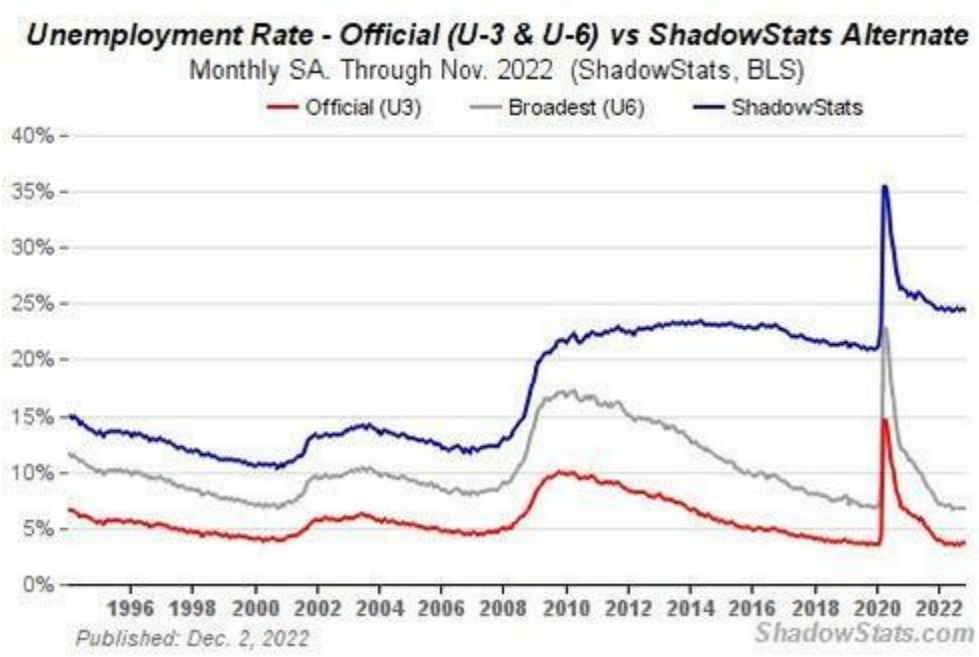
I think a list of big lies is sufficient to prove we are ruled by totalitarian ideologues who don't care their lies are destroying our country, culture, and societal norms. During my lifetime: they lied about JFK's assassination; they lied about the Gulf of Tonkin to get us into the Vietnam War; they lied about 9/11; they lied about WMD in Iraq; they lied about the 2008 financial collapse; they lied about the 2014 CIA coup in the Ukraine creating the havoc we have today; they lied about global warming and had to switch to climate change when the original lie was revealed; they lied about Russiagate and their coup against Trump, they lied about the "peaceful" BLM protests; they lied about the cause of George Floyd's death (fentanyl overdose); they lie about child trafficking and grooming; they lie about butchering children in the name of gender identity; they lied about Hunter Biden's computer and the Biden family crime syndicate; they lied about rigging the 2020 election; they lied about Epstein's "suicide"; they lied about the FBI and Pelosi staging the January 6 "insurrection"; they lied about colluding with Twitter, Facebook, and Google to influence elections and create a fake pandemic; they are lying about our border being safe and secure; they are lying that Biden isn't a dementia ridden puppet controlled by Obama, Soros, and Gates; they are lying that Sam Bankman-Fried and his FTX money laundering operation wasn't an arm of the Democrat party, using ill-gotten funds and funneling it to Democrat candidates; and they are lying about their intentions to destroy our society through suicidal economic, social, and legal policies in order to usher in a totalitarian Great Reset New World Order run by wealthy elites and their detestable acolytes. Our dystopian nightmare is on-par with Orwell's.

“The atom bombs are piling up in the factories, the police are prowling through the cities, the lies are streaming from the loudspeakers, but the earth is still going round the sun.” **– George Orwell**

Totalitarian regimes have tremendous success using fake data and fake charts to give the appearance of truth to a populace too willfully ignorant to investigate whether the data and charts are a truthful and accurate reflection of reality. It is so much easier to believe supposed experts than it is to think critically and question the narrative, especially when they are telling you what you want to hear. Even though the average person knows their financial situation has steadily deteriorated over the last two decades, along with the financial situation of the country, they still believe the fake data vomited on a daily basis by the government and Wall Street banking cabal.

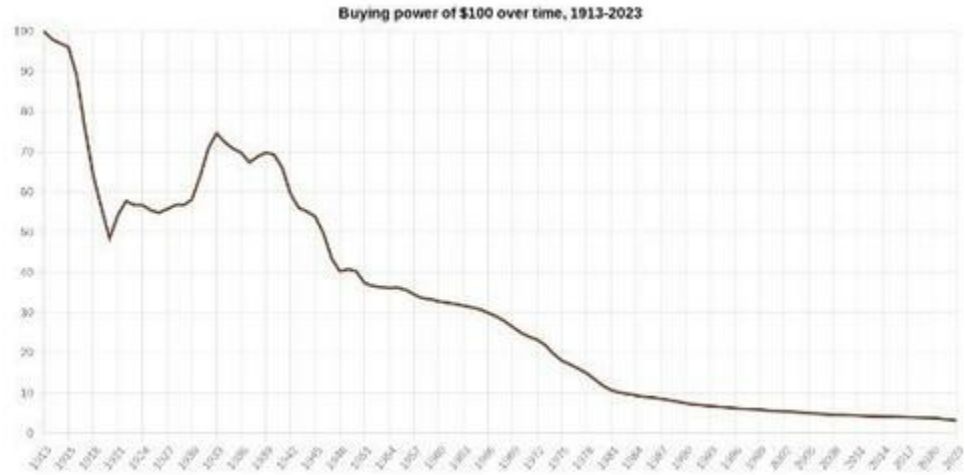
They are lying about the inflation rate being 7%. It is more than double the government reported figure, based upon the calculation from 1980 when Volker needed to raise the Fed Funds Rate to 18%.

They are lying about the 3.7% unemployment rate. The total working age population is 265 million, up from 212 million in 2000. There are 158 million employed today, versus 137 million in 2000. The unemployment rate in 2000 of 4% is virtually the same as the rate reported today. How could that be if the working age population went up by 53 million, but employment only went up by 21 million? Quite a conundrum. It's easy if you lie. According to the government 100 million working age Americans choose not to work, therefore they aren't unemployed. That number was 70 million in 2000. Fully 40% of our working age citizens are not working today, but the government tells you our unemployment rate is 3.7%. This might be the biggest lie ever told.



The government has reported positive real GDP growth for most of the past two decades, with short-term dips in 2008/2009 and due to covid in 2020. Those figures are lies. Using a truthful inflation figure shows GDP has barely stayed flat for the last 20 years. The great American economy hasn’t grown in 20 years. We are a dying lying empire of debt. Our national debt grew from $5.7 trillion in 2000 to $31.5 trillion today. The debt to GDP ratio has gone from 55% in 2000 to 122% today. Throughout history, when this ratio exceeds 90%, economic disaster follows.

The biggest lie has been perpetrated by the Wall Street controlled Federal Reserve, whose mandates are a stable currency and low unemployment. With a straight face these jokers declare they have succeeded, while the USD has lost 97% of its purchasing power since the deceitful inception of the Federal Reserve in 1913, and the real unemployment rate is north of 20%. Losing the last 3% of purchasing power guarantees to be the most painful.



After documenting the outrageous multitude of lies being told by those controlling the levers of society, I'm torn regarding whether I trust enough people can be awakened from their self-induced stupor of belief in authority to mount a counter-offensive of truth. I guess I wouldn't be writing articles about

these subjects unless I thought there was a kernel of hope I could plant with my reasoning. But I find myself drawn more towards the conclusion reached by Alexandre Koyré over fifty years ago about mobs and the ease with which totalitarian authority figures can manipulate them:

“The mob believes everything it is told, provided only that it be repeated over and over. Provided too that its passions, hatreds, fears are catered to. Nor need one try to stay within the limits of plausibility: on the contrary, the grosser, the bigger, the cruder the lie, the more readily is it believed and followed. Nor is there any need to avoid contradictions: the mob never notices; needless to pretend to correlate what is said to some with what is said to others: each person or group believes only what he is told, not what anyone else is told; needless to strive for coherence: the mob has no memory; needless to pretend to any truth: the mob is radically incapable of perceiving it: the mob can never comprehend that its own interests are what is at stake.” — **Alexandre Koyré, Réflexions sur le mensonge**

When the mob has been essentially hypnotized by totalitarian authority figures, unbound from the law through illegally invoking “emergency” powers to ensure the safety of the masses, it takes massive bloodshed and enormous upheaval before the mob will come to their senses and realize their dreadful misplacement of trust in tyrants. Personally, I hope I am wrong about what lies ahead, but I don’t see a pathway towards a peaceful, reasoned resolution of what plagues our country and the world.

Fools, knaves, and low IQ ideologues control the narrative, the political power, the media messaging, the banks, and the minds of the mob. We can attempt to distance ourselves from the onslaught, but there really is no way to escape the impact of a Fourth Turning, whether it be global conflict, civil chaos, financial Armageddon, or the wrath of the mob for being right about the vaccines, politicians, or the financial markets. I am not surprised or upset about the lies told to me by those running the show. Neitzsche and Carlin, two brilliant thinkers, pretty much sum up my feelings.

“I’m not upset that you lied to me, I’m upset that from now on I can’t believe you.” — **Friedrich Nietzsche**

“My first rule: I don’t believe anything the government tells me. Nothing. Zero.” – **George Carlin**

Very few people who need to awaken from their propaganda induced stupor of believing absurdities will read this article. Those who are already awake and can see what is happening clearly have few or no options to impact the course we are traveling. Too few see the iceberg dead ahead as the U.S. Titanic accelerates towards its rendezvous with destiny. We can shout and wave our hands, but there is nothing we can do to alter the course of an empire run by idiot ideologues, hellbent on the destruction of our ship of state. As Bradbury presciently noted in his masterpiece of societal self-immolation, I can’t make people listen to a message they don’t want to hear.

“But you can’t make people listen. They have to come round in their own time, wondering what happened and why the world blew up around them. It can’t last.” — **Ray Bradbury, Fahrenheit 451**

At this point I’m torn between the darkness of Orwell’s vision and the stoic attitude put forth by Tolkien. We are living in a time of universal deceit and telling the truth feels like a revolutionary act when the mob is under the spell of mass formation psychosis. It is an interesting dichotomy that this article will only be read by a small audience of people who already agree with most of my arguments. If it ever reached a wider audience, I would be attacked by the mob, censored, threatened, and doxed in an attempt to destroy my life. So be it.

I will do what I can do with my limited resources, protect my loved ones, strengthen relationships with like-minded hobbits, disconnect from this warped and deviant society as much as possible, distance myself from the government, prepare for an uncertain future, and try my best to navigate the perils ahead. We only have a limited time on this earth to make a difference. We each must decide what we do with the time given us. God help us.

“I wish it need not have happened in my time,” said Frodo. “So do I,” said Gandalf, “and so do all who live to see such times. But that is not for them to decide. All we have to decide is what to do with the time that is given us.” **— J.R.R. Tolkien, The Fellowship of the Ring**

“The world is indeed full of peril, and in it there are many dark places; but still there is much that is fair, and though in all lands love is now mingled with grief, it grows perhaps the greater.” **— J.R.R. Tolkien, The Fellowship of the Ring**

* * *

It is Jim's sincere desire to provide readers of his site with the best unbiased information available, and a forum where it can be discussed openly, as our Founders intended. But it is not easy nor inexpensive to do so, especially when those who wish to prevent us from making the truth known, attack us without mercy on all fronts on a daily basis. Please consider contributing an amount commensurate to the value that you receive from this site and community, or even by becoming a sustaining supporter through periodic contributions.

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Censorship December.31 what twitter did..

1. History changed because of this:

- Hunter Biden’s alleged corruption censored
- Covid 19 lockdown debate stifled
- Trump silenced

You may agree with each decision. But there is no denying that halting information flow and free debate had real consequences.

2. Many things called conspiracy theories were true:

- FBI was working w Twitter and paid TW $ millions
- Blacklists & shadow bans were real
- US intel lobbied to censor accounts
- Covid-19 convo heavily manipulated
- Twitter rules changed & enforced by whim

3. Censorship is being cloaked in the language of safety:

- ‘Safety, harm, violence’ redefined to apply to ideas
- Opinions & info deemed ‘unsafe’ subject to silencing
- Jokes, memes, questions about origin of covid off limits

4. The government is policing opinion:

- FBI has 80 staff monitoring speech
- Small accounts on left and right flagged
- FBI held frequent meetings w TW
- Facebook, Youtube, and Instagram = similar?
- Private censors & police control what you say to whom.

5. Social media executives lie freely:

- Twitter execs repeatedly and publicly denied shadow bans
- In reality, bans were in place as “visibility filtering”
- Ultimately, no accountability to public

6. Free speech is controlled by a small group:

- Biggest decisions in Twitter Files made by 3-4 individuals
- Despite misgivings and doubts, once made, decisions stuck
- Now it’s Musk.

One difference: his embrace of public polls to set policy.

7. The slippery slope is real:

- Staff rebellion led to Trump ban
- Staff called for more covid-19 censorship
- 2021-22 saw increase of bans and ‘one-offs’

This is how you get Billy Baldwin in the crosshairs.

Once you silence a president, who has a right to speak?

8. Musk has made enemies:

- Leaking to indy media
- Expressing opinions on Fauci
- Suspending journalist accounts

I expect his businesses will see counterattacks. Now is a good time to refocus—and let the users decide how to uphold free speech.

TLDR

1. History changed
2. Conspiracy theories true
3. ‘Safety’ = censorship
4. Government policed ideas
5. Executives lied
6. Speech controlled by small group
7. Slippery slope is real
8. Musk must watch out

Government, censorship, tech, stats: $1.7 TRILLION SPENDING BILL REQUIRES PLATFORMS TO VERIFY ID OF THOSE EARNING $5,000 REVENUE PER YEAR

Holy roman empire, history, stats, church: the practice of usury can be traced back approximately four thousand years

Despite its Judaic roots, the critique of usury was most ferverently taken up as a cause by the institutions of the Christian Church where the debate prevailed with great intensity for well over a thousand years[v]. The Old Testament decrees were resurrected and a New Testament reference to usury added to fuel the case[vi]. Building on the authority of these texts, the Roman Catholic Church had by the fourth century AD prohibited the taking of interest by the clergy; a rule which they extended in the fifth century to the laity. In the eighth century under Charlemagne, they pressed further and declared usury to be a general criminal offence. This anti-usury movement continued to gain momentum during the early Middle Ages and perhaps reached its zenith in 1311 when Pope Clement V made the ban on usury absolute and declared all secular legislation in its favour, null and void (Birnie, 1952).

Ai, tech: iRobot was founded in 1990 by MIT's Artificial Intelligence Lab (the AI project was founded in 1959)

The AI Lab was founded as the AI project in 1959

War, stats: Asymmetric warfare:describes what is also called guerrilla warfare, insurgency, counterinsurgency, rebellion, terrorism, and counter-terrorism

Asymmetric warfare is **a form of irregular warfare – conflicts in which enemy combatants are not regular military forces of nation-states**. The term is frequently used to describe what is also called guerrilla warfare, insurgency, counterinsurgency, rebellion, terrorism, and counter-terrorism.

Stats, health: medicial error third leading cause of death accoridng to muli[ple studies over a period of 50 years

Death by medical error or accident is the nation’s leading cause of accidental death, exceeding all other causes of accidental death combined. Medical error and accidents kill approximately as many people each month in the U.S. as Covid-19 did before vaccines became available.

Yet there’s no Operation Warp Speed for preventing medical errors, no national investment of billions of dollars to develop solutions, and no national urgency about solving the problem.

That’s more than enough to make medical care gone awry the number three cause of death in the U.S., after heart disease and cancer.

The Institute for Health care Improvement created a technique known as the Global Trigger, which scours medical records for subtle indications that a patient suffered unexpected harm. A 2013 meta-analysis of Global Trigger studies found 10 times as many adverse events as found by conventional records reviews, with deaths numbering as many as 440,000 per year. Other studies, using on-scene observers, have found comparable numbers of incidents.

https://www.statnews.com/2021/08/04/medical-errors-accidents-ongoing-preventable-health-threat/

"Meta-analytic results are considered the most trustworthy source of evidence by the evidence-based medicine literature."

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Meta-analysis

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Medical Error Is Not the Third Leading Cause of Death
An alarming statistic shared by countless people is based on a highly problematic bit of data extrapolation and has been used to paint all of medicine as untrustworthy
Jonathan Jarry M.Sc. | 27 Aug 2021
Critical Thinking

https://www.mcgill.ca/oss/article/critical-thinking-health/medical-error-not-third-leading-cause-death

vaccine, censorship: Top Doctor Acusses Twitter of Killing People Through Their Censorship of Legitimate Science

"Censorship of the correct science and medical information, during this pandemic, absolutely killed people. It prevented people from making intelligent decisions. It prevented people from making the appropriate use of caution," Atlas alleged of Twitter censoring doctors such as himself.

zerohedgedotcom/covid-19/twitters-covid-19-censorship-led-loss-life-says-former-white-house-adviser-dr-scott-atlas

vaccine, censorship: COVID testing company contracted by Canadian govt led by defense minister's husband

"Minister of Defence Anita Anand failed to acknowledge any potential conflict of interest despite millions in federal contracts being awarded to a company that had not previously done much business with the government.

Before the COVID crisis hit, according to Blacklock's Reporter, LifeLabs received few federal contracts. **In 2019, it only received $134,413 from the feds.**

....

As for Anand, she was elected an MP and then appointed Public Works Ministers in the fall of 2019.

LifeLabs was recently awarded $111 million for testing services in British Columbia, Saskatchewan, and the Yukon."

lifesitenewsdotcom/news/covid-testing-company-contracted-by-canadian-govt-lead-by-defense-ministers-husband/

tech, ai, government: Klaus Schwab: "If I had to define Industry 4.0 in one sentence I would say that this is an integration of physical, biological and technological experience"

https://en.ktu.edu/news/professor-klaus-schwab-there-is-a-lack-of-skills-not-jobs/

tech, stats, censorship, government: 10 years ago, scientists did a study of movement data from 1.5 million people, and concluded that just 4 points in space and time were enough to identify 95% of people

"Way back in 2013, a group of scientists studied 15 months of human mobility movement data collected from 1.5 million people. They concluded that just four points in space and time were enough to identify 95 percent of those people."

Tech, government, censorship, stats: internet of things (IoT) devices are easy to hack into

Tech, china, government: China has more than 50 percent of all surveillance cameras installed in the world, with almost 34 cameras per 1,000 people.

Africa, war, history: famines in somalia

Sadly, the worst part of the war has been the weather. Drought came in 2010–2012 and again in 2015–2017. Crops failed across the whole Horn of Africa, but Somalia was hit the hardest because they were at war. The farmers had not had a chance to sow their crops or to harvest them. They had no transportation, so whatever crops could be grown could not reach the market, which was closed anyway because no one had any money. The entire system of food distribution and services in Somalia completely broke down. People were lying down and dying in refugee camps on the sides of the highways. A quarter of a million of them had starved to death by the beginning of 2013. The Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWSNET), a U.S. and UK-backed non-governmental organization (NGO) that keeps track of global famines, said that more than half of the 250,000 who had died were children under five years old. The elderly were also among those hit hardest by the mass starvation. A million people had been driven from their homes.

America helped to reduce Somalia to the most desperate state. Then in 2011, President Obama sent President Bill Clinton's old friend and national security adviser, Anthony Lake, to take charge of distributing international food relief. These efforts fell far short. The food relief did not get to the starving people out in the countryside. The warlords seized it all to feed their soldiers and sell the rest. Also in 2011, the Kenyan invasion disrupted the distribution of food aid. This has been one of the worst humanitarian crises of this century, inflicted by the most powerful nation in history against one of the weakest – people who have done nothing to us. In 2017, FEWSNET reported that mortality and under-five mortality rates remained at emergency levels. In 2020, the Cost of War Project estimated that 46 percent of Somalia's population have been displaced since the U.S. began its latest intervention at the dawn of the War on Terrorism.

By mid-2007, 50,000 Ethiopian troops invaded Somalia in late 2006

But one of the released WikiLeaks cables suggests a different picture, one that implicates Frazer in pressing Ethiopia's President Meles Zenawi to invade his

neighbor. The content of the cable is being widely discussed in the African media. It exposes a secret deal cut between the United States and Ethiopia to invade Somalia.

Vaccine, censorship: dec9 Duke University Hospital Denies Life Saving Kidney Transplant to Dying 14-Year-Old Girl for Being Unvaccinated

Duke University Hospital Denies Life Saving Kidney Transplant to Dying 14-Year-Old Girl for Being Unvaccinated

(confirmation of **real story** status) "In a statement, Brigham and Women's Hospital confirmed its decision to remove Ferguson from the list, saying, "Like many other transplant programs in the United States — the COVID-19 vaccine is one of several vaccines and lifestyle behaviors required for transplant candidates in the Mass General Brigham system in order to create both the best chance for a successful operation and also the patient's survival after transplantation."

Vaccine, health, china, censorship: dec9 China's asymptomatic issue. Something i remember reading about in the summer, I think..

Chinese politics & policy

China’s disappearing data stokes fears of hidden Covid wave

Low official case number and death toll puzzle analysts after Beijing lifts Covid testing requirements

Closed testing booths outside the Shanghai Railway Station. Pandemic controls have been relaxed just weeks after daily cases nationwide hit 40,000 © Aly Song/Reuters

- China’s disappearing data stokes fears of hidden Covid wave on twitter (opens in a new window)
- China’s disappearing data stokes fears of hidden Covid wave on facebook (opens in a new window)
- China’s disappearing data stokes fears of hidden Covid wave on linkedin (opens in a new window)

current progress 0%

Edward White in Seoul and **Qianer Liu** in Hong Kong

53 MINUTES AGO

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China is starting to under-report coronavirus cases and fatalities, which experts warn is obscuring the scale and severity of the health crisis just as the world’s most populous country enters its deadliest phase of the pandemic.

Official statistics on Friday revealed no new deaths and only 16,363 locally transmitted coronavirus cases in China, less than half the peak caseload reported last month.

That is despite a stunning U-turn over the past week to relax President Xi Jinping’s heavy-handed pandemic controls, which means the virus is certain to spread.

The sweeping changes to Xi’s zero-Covid policy allow asymptomatic or mild cases to isolate at home rather than in centralised

quarantine, and slashed China’s mass testing and contact tracing requirements.

The sudden reversal comes came weeks after Covid-19 cases hit a record high of more than 40,000 a day, with every region of the country reporting an Omicron outbreak.

Despite the official numbers suggesting the caseload had halved, Raymond Yeung, China economist at ANZ bank, said that on-the-ground observations indicated some cities, including Baoding, in the northern province of Hebei, already had “high infection numbers”. More big cities, he said, would soon endure similar levels of infections.

“Like Hong Kong, the actual infection data will no longer be informative. As the ‘official’ infection figures decline, the government can eventually claim their success against the virus,” Yeung said.

Gulf widens between reported cases and projected estimates

Daily reported Covid-19 cases vs projected number of cases based on epidemic modelling

A chart showing China’s daily reported Covid-19 cases vs projected number of cases based epidemic modelling, highlighting that the discrepancy between official caseload and model projection is widening.
Dec 4Nov 27Nov 20Nov 13Nov
680,00060,00040,00020,000**ReportedReportedProjectedProjected**
Source: China’s National Health Commission, Wigram Capital Advisors

FT Data: Andy Lin/@imandylin2

The situation echoes the dearth of official information during the disastrous initial outbreak in Wuhan nearly three years ago. Local officials and analysts warned that the reduced testing, as well as gaps in reporting of both cases and deaths, would make it harder to assess the risk to the world’s second-biggest economy.

“The behaviour of case numbers is very similar to 2020, where we had one [to] two weeks with genuine case numbers, before the veil

was drawn," said Rodney Jones, principal at Wigram Capital Advisors, an Asia-focused macroeconomic advisory group.

"We have no idea whether we will see actual case data again, and whether the sharp downshift in cases reflects reduced testing . . . or political management of the case data," Jones added.

A critical missing piece of information is the rate of positive tests, which is important for determining actual infection. Nor is the real-time effective R value published, depriving observers of a vital measure of the rate at which the disease is spreading.

There are also discrepancies between Chinese regions in how cause of death is determined and the definition of "symptomatic". In some cities, including Shanghai, a chest scan is required before Covid diagnosis.

Xi's decision to loosen strictures has led to fears of an unparalleled wave of infections and a sharply rising death toll. Wigram has projected as many as 1mn deaths over the winter months.

China has reported 5,235 coronavirus deaths, with the latest additions on Sunday. More than 4,600 fatalities were reported in the first few months of 2020 and about 600 during Shanghai's lockdown in April and May this year.

One provincial health official said deaths would "normally" only be recorded if a person tested positive before seeking medical attention. They added that many colleagues were questioning the veracity of the official death toll after authorities concealed fatality data in 2020.

"Those who present with symptoms but have not had time to be tested and die from an underlying disease, these would be missed," the official said.

An ICU doctor in Guangzhou, a city in southern China, said the data's usefulness was complicated by the fact that many seriously ill patients were avoiding hospitalisation. Others were unable to obtain the PCR test result required for hospital treatment because of reduced testing.

Chinese officials and state media said the policy changes were designed to "contain the epidemic in a more science-based and targeted manner".

Public health messaging has also intensified to encourage vaccinations among the nearly 90mn elderly Chinese who remain inadequately protected from the virus.

Asymptomatic cases drop after China ends compulsory testing

Daily reported Covid-19 cases

Symptomatic
Asymptomatic
A chart showing China’s daily reported symptomatic and asymptomatic cases , highlighting that asymptomatic cases, usually found by compulsory testing, dropped drastically while symptomatic cases remain stable.
Dec 1Nov 1Oct 1040,00030,00020,00010,000
Source: China’s National Health Commission

FT Data: Andy Lin/@imandylin2

However, public anxiety is increasing about the healthcare system’s capacity to handle a big rise in Covid cases and the discrepancy between the official narrative and reality.

“We should address the problem — either report real figures or stop publishing them,” Hu Xijin, a former editor of the Global Times, a nationalist tabloid, wrote in a social media post, adding that disseminating “severely distorted figures to the public” was damaging the authority of official information.

Hospitals in Beijing have started running out of medical supplies, including ibuprofen and paracetamol, as health workers fight an outbreak spreading rapidly through the Chinese capital. Yet the Chinese capital reported just 2,654 official new infections on Friday for the day prior.

Ben Cowling, a professor of epidemiology at the University of Hong Kong, warned of the risks of abandoning testing requirements and reporting cases inaccurately.

“As testing intensity is reduced, it will be more difficult to maintain situational awareness of the level of infections in the community, and interpretation of case counts will be more nuanced,” he said.

Yanzhong Huang at the Council for Foreign Relations think-tank, noted that after the November surge in cases, there were “so many asymptomatic cases and so few severe cases”.

“That is puzzling,” he said. “Does that mean they have a different way of counting Covid-related deaths?”

Recommended

Coronavirus pandemic

China risks 1mn Covid deaths in ‘winter wave’, modelling shows

Others maintained that after nearly three years, the costs of mass testing, coupled with China’s contact tracing system, had become unsustainable.

As local government coffers dried up, the decision to depart from mass testing was essentially forced upon Beijing, said Sam Radwan, principal at Enhance International, a consultancy.

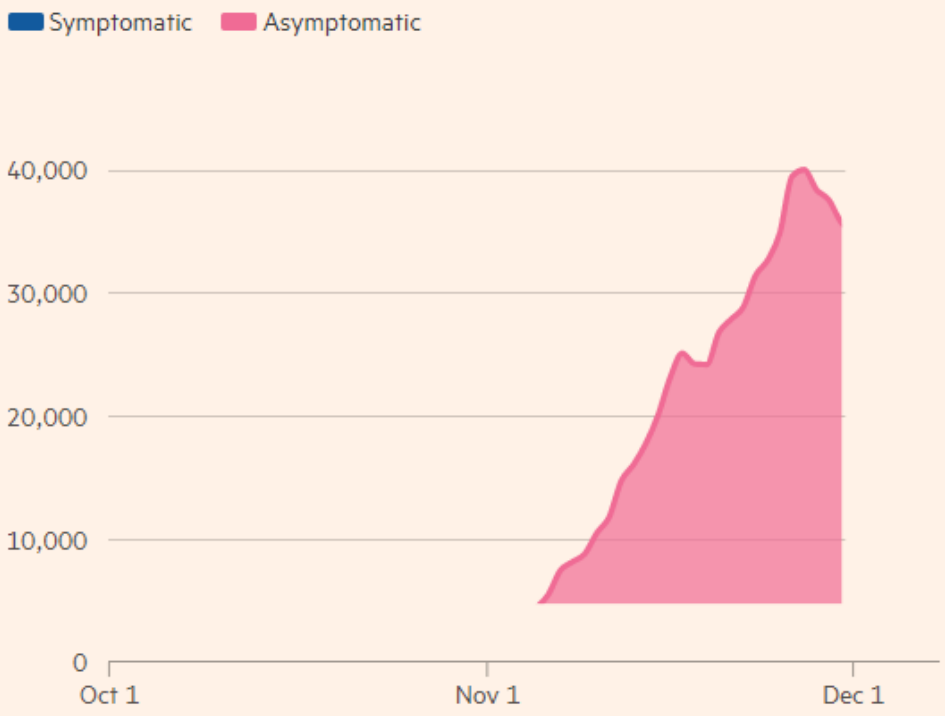
“Beijing Social Insurance Fund Management Center has run out of money. They’re having a hard time paying bills for the first time in a very long time,” Radwan said, referring to the capital’s agency responsible for funding health services.

“That’s why you were seeing they’re shutting down testing booths before they’re removing the restrictions.”

Additional reporting by William Langley, Andy Lin, Gloria Li and Eleanor Olcott in Hong Kong

Asymptomatic cases drop after China ends compulsory testing

Daily reported Covid-19 cases

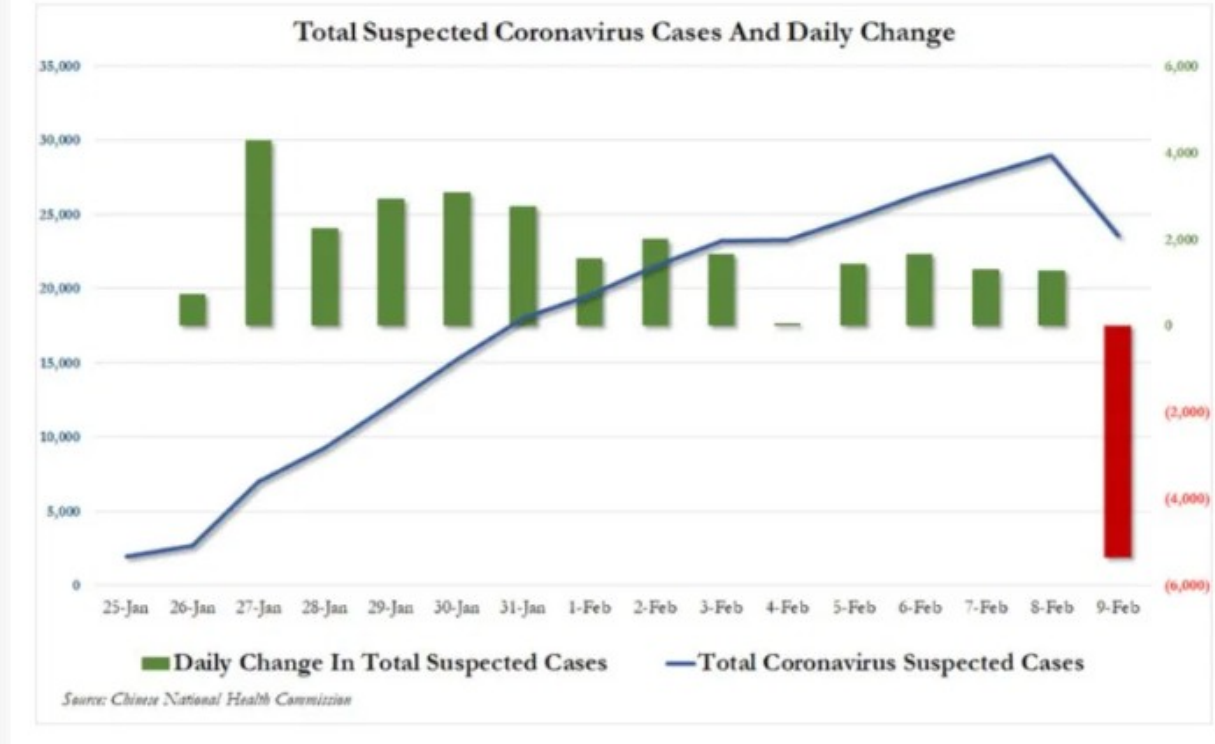


Source: China's National Health Commission

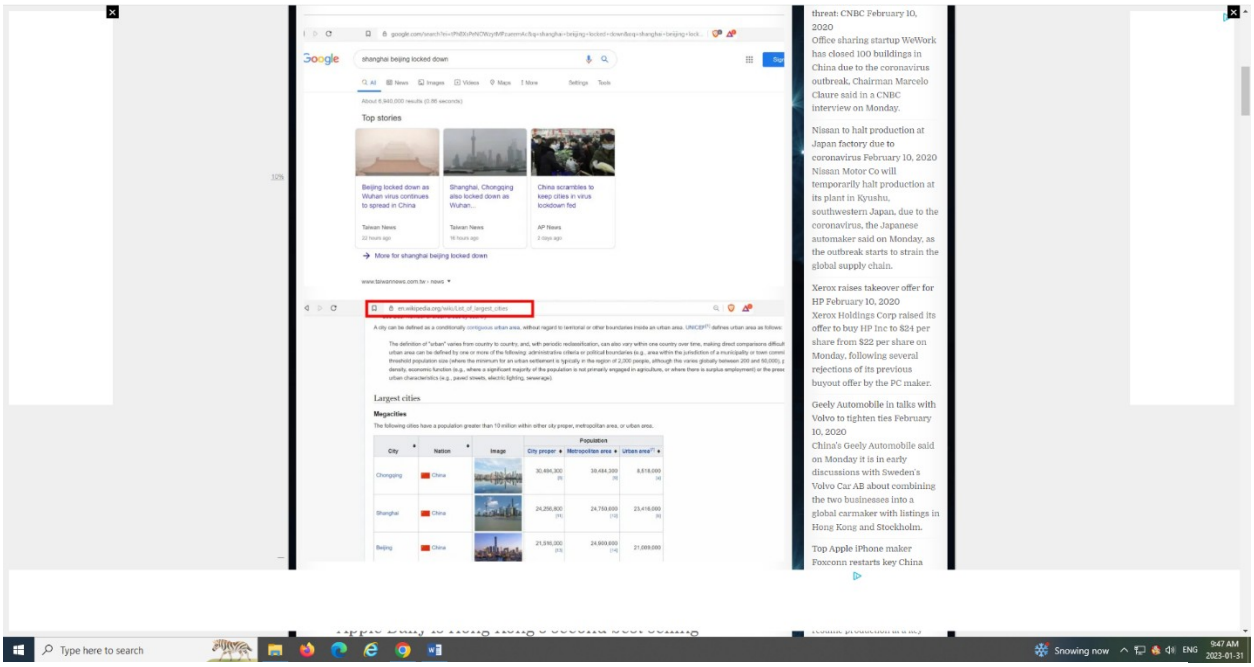
FINANCIAL TIMES

Vaccine, censorship, china, sanctions, war, stats, health:
From February 10th, 2020, including in this document on date: jan31

[FULL REVIEW]China Changes 'Confirmed Case' Methodology: Infected Without Symptoms (Asymptomatic) Now Does NOT Constitute a 'CONFIRMED CASE' According to Alex Lam of AppleDaily.HK



Beijing and Shanghai Now Locked Down — Two Both 2nd and 3rd Most Populated Cities in the World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threat: CNBC February 10, 2020
Office sharing startup WeWork has closed 100 buildings in China due to the coronavirus outbreak, Chairman Marcelo Claure said in a CNBC interview on Monday.
Nissan to halt production at Japan factory due to coronavirus February 10, 2020
Nissan Motor Co will temporarily halt production at its plant in Kyushu, southwestern Japan, due to the coronavirus, the Japanese automaker said on Monday, as the outbreak starts to strain the global supply chain.
Xerox raises takeover offer for HP February 10, 2020
Xerox Holdings Corp raised its offer to buy HP Inc to $24 per share from $22 per share on Monday, following several rejections of its previous buyout offer by the PC maker.
Geely Automobile in talks with Volvo to tighten ties February 10, 2020
China's Geely Automobile said on Monday it is in early discussions with Sweden's Volvo Car AB about combining the two businesses into a global carmaker with listings in Hong Kong and Stockholm.
Top Apple iPhone maker Foxconn restarts key China
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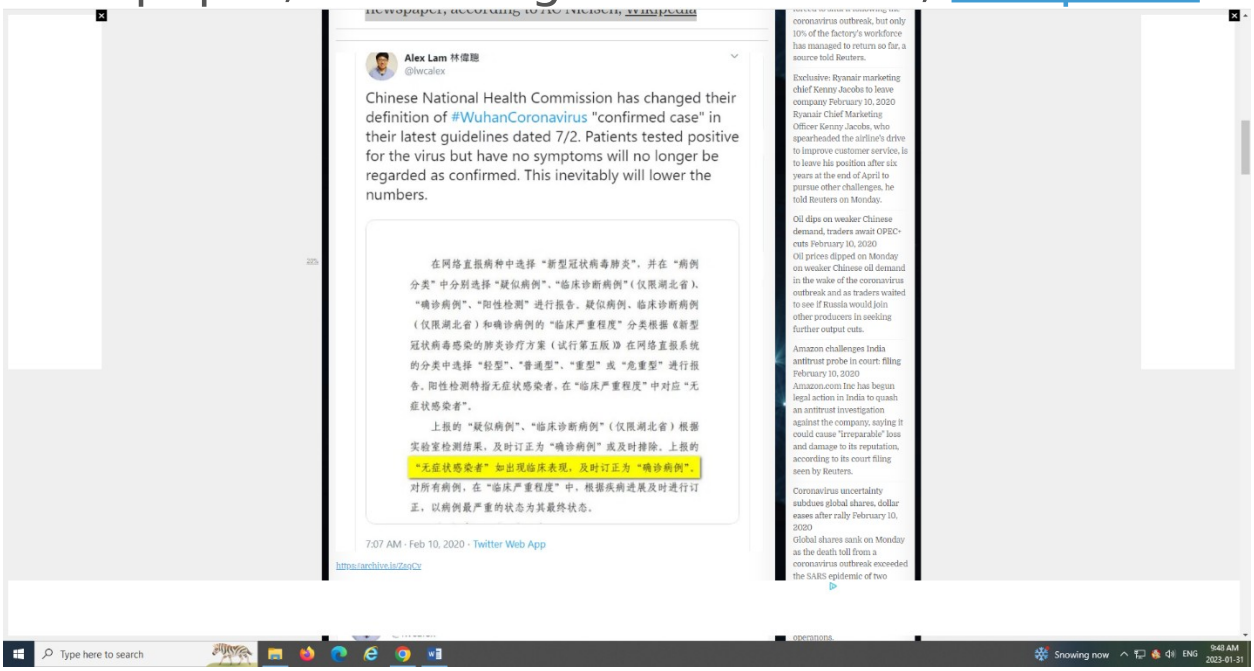
Apple Daily is Hong Kong’s second best selling newspaper, according to AC Nielsen, [Wikipedia]


Alex Lam 林偉聰
@lwcalex
Chinese National Health Commission has changed their definition of #WuhanCoronavirus "confirmed case" in their latest guidelines dated 7/2. Patients tested positive for the virus but have no symptoms will no longer be regarded as confirmed. This inevitably will lower the numbers.
在网络直报病种中选择“新型冠状病毒肺炎”，并在“病例分类”中分别选择“疑似病例”、“临床诊断病例”（仅限湖北省）、“确诊病例”、“阳性检测”进行报告。疑似病例、临床诊断病例（仅限湖北省）和确诊病例的“临床严重程度”分类根据《新型冠状病毒感染的肺炎诊疗方案（试行第五版）》在网络直报系统的分类中选择“轻型”、“普通型”、“重型”或“危重型”进行报告。阳性检测特指无症状感染者，在“临床严重程度”中对应“无症状感染者”。
上报的“疑似病例”、“临床诊断病例”（仅限湖北省）根据实验室检测结果，及时订正为“确诊病例”或及时排除。上报的“无症状感染者”如出现临床表现，及时订正为“确诊病例”。对所有病例，在“临床严重程度”中，根据疾病进展及时进行订正，以病例最严重的状态为其最终状态。
7:07 AM · Feb 10, 2020 · Twitter Web App
https://archive.is/ZnqCv
coronavirus outbreak, but only 10% of the factory's workforce has managed to return so far, a source told Reuters.
Exclusive: Ryanair marketing chief Kenny Jacobs to leave company February 10, 2020
Ryanair Chief Marketing Officer Kenny Jacobs, who spearheaded the airline's drive to improve customer service, is to leave his position after six years at the end of April to pursue other challenges, he told Reuters on Monday.
Oil dips on weaker Chinese demand, traders await OPEC+ cuts February 10, 2020
Oil prices dipped on Monday on weaker Chinese oil demand in the wake of the coronavirus outbreak and as traders waited to see if Russia would join other producers in seeking further output cuts.
Amazon challenges India antitrust probe in court: filing February 10, 2020
Amazon.com Inc has begun legal action in India to quash an antitrust investigation against the company, saying it could cause "irreparable" loss and damage to its reputation, according to its court filing seen by Reuters.
Coronavirus uncertainty subdues global shares, dollar eases after rally February 10, 2020
Global shares sank on Monday as the death toll from a coronavirus outbreak exceeded the SARS epidemic of two
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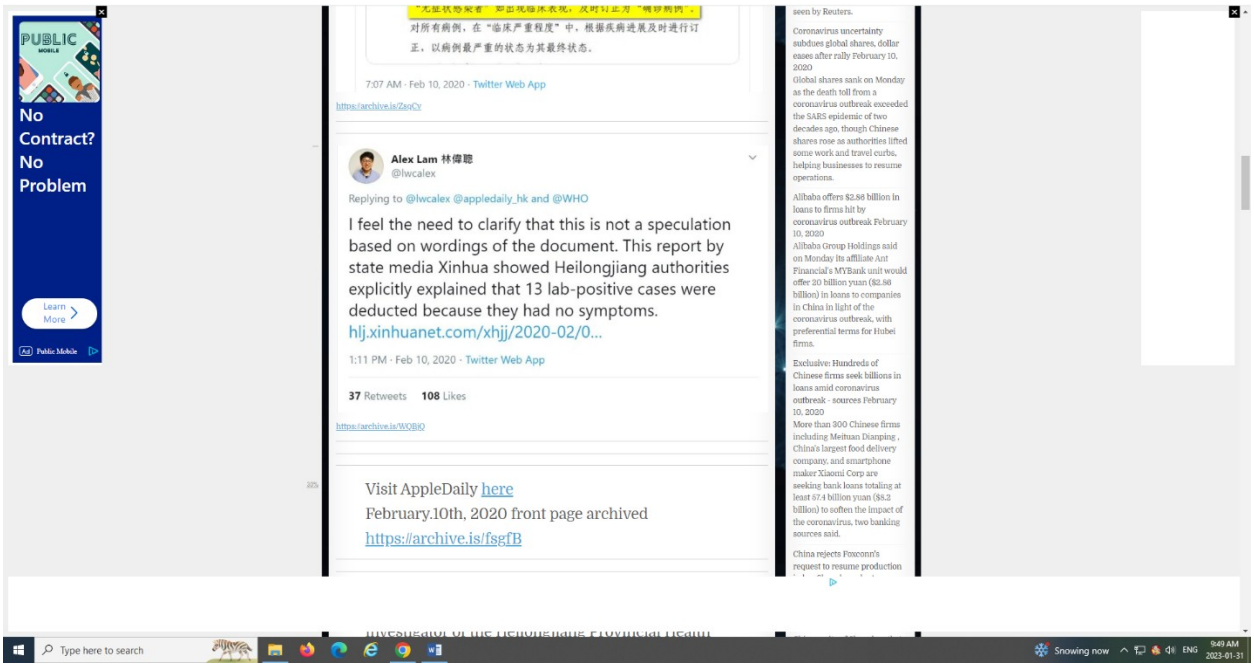
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对所有病例，在“临床严重程度”中，根据疾病进展及时进行订正，以病例最严重的状态为其最终状态。
7:07 AM · Feb 10, 2020 · Twitter Web App
https://archive.is/ZsqCy
Alex Lam 林偉聰
@lwcalex
Replying to @lwcalex @appledaily_hk and @WHO
I feel the need to clarify that this is not a speculation based on wordings of the document. This report by state media Xinhua showed Heilongjiang authorities explicitly explained that 13 lab-positive cases were deducted because they had no symptoms.
hlj.xinhuanet.com/xhjj/2020-02/0...
1:11 PM · Feb 10, 2020 · Twitter Web App
37 Retweets 108 Likes
https://archive.is/WQBiQ
Visit AppleDaily here
February.10th, 2020 front page archived
https://archive.is/fsgfB
seen by Reuters.
Coronavirus uncertainty subdues global shares, dollar eases after rally February 10, 2020
Global shares sank on Monday as the death toll from a coronavirus outbreak exceeded the SARS epidemic of two decades ago, though Chinese shares rose as authorities lifted some work and travel curbs, helping businesses to resume operations.
Alibaba offers $2.88 billion in loans to firms hit by coronavirus outbreak February 10, 2020
Alibaba Group Holdings said on Monday its affiliate Ant Financial's MYBank unit would offer 20 billion yuan ($2.88 billion) in loans to companies in China in light of the coronavirus outbreak, with preferential terms for Hubei firms.
Exclusive: Hundreds of Chinese firms seek billions in loans amid coronavirus outbreak - sources February 10, 2020
More than 300 Chinese firms including Meituan Dianping , China's largest food delivery company, and smartphone maker Xiaomi Corp are seeking bank loans totaling at least 57.4 billion yuan ($8.2 billion) to soften the impact of the coronavirus, two banking sources said.
China rejects Foxconn's request to resume production
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Visit AppleDaily here
February.10th, 2020 front page archived
https://archive.is/fsgfB

“According to Zhao Yuhui, a second-level investigator of the Heilongjiang Provincial Health and Health Committee’s Medical Administration and Medical Administration Division, on the 8th, **14 patients were deducted from Heilongjiang Province, the positive cases of nucleic acid testing are divided into confirmed cases and asymptomatic infection**, rather than collectively referred to as confirmed cases”.

“What are asymptomatic infections, how are these patients screened out, do ordinary people asymptomatic need to go to relevant institutions for examination? Sun Wei explained that asymptomatic infection refers to patients who have no clinical symptoms of infection with the new coronavirus (such as fever, fatigue, pneumonia, etc.), but who have a positive nasopharyngeal swab virus nucleic acid test”.

http://hlj.xinhuanet.com/xhjj/2020-02/09/c_138768326.htm
https://archive.is/Q3BAL

the positive cases of nucleic acid testing are divided into

confirmed cases
and ***asymptomatic infection***

Taiwan News was founded 6 June 1949 by James Wei as China News

“TAIPEI (Taiwan News) — As many experts question the veracity of China’s statistics for the Wuhan coronavirus outbreak, Tencent over the weekend appeared to inadvertently release what is potentially the actual number of infections and deaths — which are far higher than official figures, but eerily in line with predictions from a respected scientific journal.

As early as Jan. 26, netizens were reporting that Tencent, on its webpage titled “Epidemic Situation Tracker,” briefly showed data on the novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV) in China that was much higher than official estimates, before suddenly switching to lower numbers. Hiroki Lo,

a 38-year-old Taiwanese beverage store owner, that day reported that Tencent and NetEase were both posting “unmodified statistics,” before switching to official numbers in short order”.
https://www.taiwannews.com.tw/en/news/3871594
https://archive.is/GNeKy

Left to right are "nationally confirmed cases," "suspected cases," "cured," and "deaths." (Internet photo)

Feb. 1 chart showing higher numbers (left), chart showing "official" numbers (right).

(Internet image)

“However, the “internal” data held by Beijing may not reflect the true extent of the epidemic. According to multiple sources in Wuhan, many coronavirus patients are unable to receive treatment and die outside of hospitals”.

Zerohedge: “This Is How China Is Rigging The Number Of Coronavirus Infections”

Reddit conversation: “China changes who qualifies as “confirmed”. This will cause numbers to decrease”.
https://archive.is/5x9pW#selection-1433.0-1433.80
https://old.reddit.com/r/Wuhan_Flu/comments/f1qrmr/china_changes_who_qualifies_as_confirmed_this/

(Translated) Official Chinese News Release
“At 04:00 on February 9th, 31 provinces (autonomous regions, municipalities) and the Xinjiang Production and Construction Corps reported that 3062 new cases were diagnosed (2618 in Hubei), 296 cases were severely added (258 in Hubei), and new There were 97 deaths (91 in Hubei, 2 in Anhui, 1 each in Heilongjiang, Jiangxi, Hainan, and Gansu), and 4008 new suspected cases (2272 in Hubei).
On the same day, 632 newly discharged cases were cured (356 in Hubei), and 29,307 close contacts were lifted from medical observation.
As of 24:00 on February 9, according to reports from 31 provinces (autonomous regions,

municipalities) and the Xinjiang Production and Construction Corps, there were 35,982 confirmed cases (of which 6,484 were severe cases), a total of 3,281 discharged cases were cured, and 908 died. A total of 40,171 confirmed cases have been reported (87 cases in Hubei, 1 case in Jiangxi and Gansu), and 23,589 suspected cases. A total of 399,487 close contacts were traced, and 187,518 close contacts were still in medical observation.
A total of 64 confirmed cases were reported from Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan: 36 cases in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (1 death), 10 cases in the Macau Special Administrative Region (1 case was cured and discharged), and 18 cases in Taiwan (1 case was cured and discharged)".

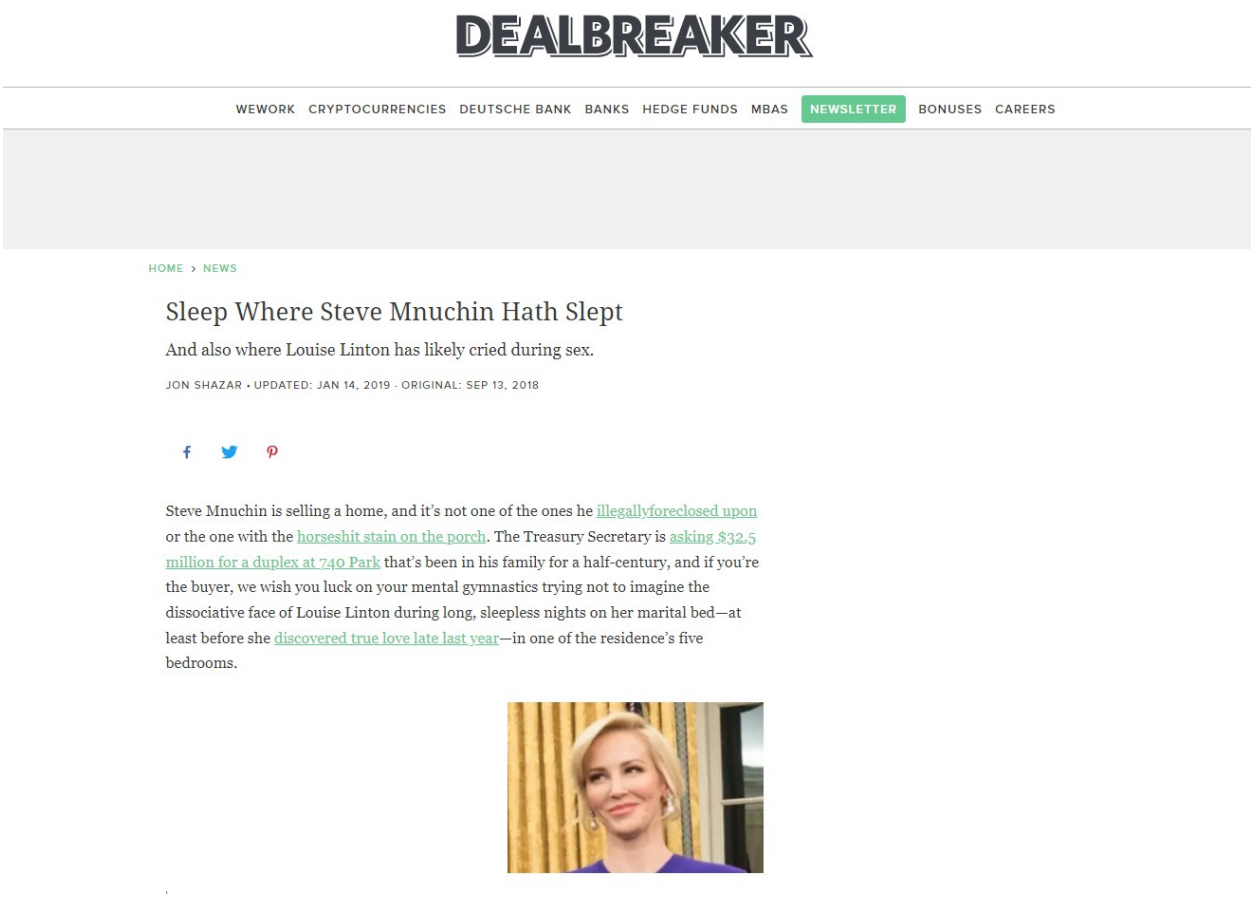
2020-02-10
http://www.nhc.gov.cn/xcs/yqtb/202002/167a0e01b2d24274b03b2ca961107929.shtml
https://archive.is/toSSg

February 10, 2020 5:00 pm
"British traveller may have spread novel coronavirus across Europe, officials say", Global News

zerohedgedotcom/health/how-china-rigging-number-coronavirus-infections
https://archive.is/M4YhO

Nov 18, 2022Russian oil price cap ‘the most ridiculous idea I’ve ever heard’, Steven Mnuchin

Trump’s former Treasury secretary calls G-7 Russian oil price cap ‘the most ridiculous idea I’ve ever heard’


DEALBREAKER
WEWORK CRYPTOCURRENCIES DEUTSCHE BANK BANKS HEDGE FUNDS MBAS NEWSLETTER BONUSES CAREERS
HOME › NEWS
Sleep Where Steve Mnuchin Hath Slept
And also where Louise Linton has likely cried during sex.
JON SHAZAR • UPDATED: JAN 14, 2019 · ORIGINAL: SEP 13, 2018
Steve Mnuchin is selling a home, and it's not one of the ones he illegallyforeclosed upon or the one with the horseshit stain on the porch. The Treasury Secretary is asking $32.5 million for a duplex at 740 Park that's been in his family for a half-century, and if you're the buyer, we wish you luck on your mental gymnastics trying not to imagine the dissociative face of Louise Linton during long, sleepless nights on her marital bed—at least before she discovered true love late last year—in one of the residence's five bedrooms.

The measure, which is due to be implemented early next month, is "*not only not feasible, I think it's the most ridiculous idea I've ever heard*," Mnuchin said.

The former official said that "*the market is going to set the price. So if you put sanctions on at higher prices, in a way you're just making the situation worse.*"

Planet, stats: dec9 Climate-Change Lockdowns? Yup, They Are Actually Going There...

Authored by Michael Snyder via The End of The American Dream blog,

I suppose that we should have known that this was inevitable. After establishing a precedent during the pandemic, now the elite apparently intend to impose lockdowns for other reasons as well. What I have detailed in this article is extremely alarming, and I hope that you will share it with everyone that you can. Climate change lockdowns are here, and if people don't respond very strongly to this it is likely that we will soon see similar measures implemented all over the western world. The elite have always promised to do

“whatever it takes” to fight climate change, and now we are finding out that they weren’t kidding.

Over in the UK, residents of Oxfordshire will now need a special permit to go from one “zone” of the city to another. But even if you have the permit, you will still only be allowed to go from one zone to another “a maximum of 100 days per year”…

Oxfordshire County Council yesterday approved plans to lock residents into one of six zones to ‘save the planet’ from global warming. The latest stage in the ’15 minute city’ agenda is to place electronic gates on key roads in and out of the city, confining residents to their own neighbourhoods.

Under the new scheme if residents want to leave their zone they will need permission from the Council who gets to decide who is worthy of freedom and who isn’t. Under the new scheme residents will be allowed to leave their zone a maximum of 100 days per year, but in order to even gain this every resident will have to register their car details with the council who will then track their movements via smart cameras round the city.

Are residents of Oxfordshire actually going to put up with this?

[ZH: Paul Joseph Watson notes that the local authorities in Oxford tried to ‘fact check’ the article claiming they’re imposing de facto ‘climate lockdowns’, but ended basically admitting that’s exactly what they’re doing...]

I never thought that we would actually see this sort of a thing get implemented in the western world, but here we are.

Of course there are a few people that are loudly objecting to this new plan, but one Oxfordshire official is pledging that “the controversial plan would go ahead whether people liked it or not”.

Ouch.

Meanwhile, **France has decided to completely ban certain short-haul flights in an attempt to reduce carbon emissions…**

France can now make you train rather than plane.

The European Commission (EC) has given French officials the green light to ban select domestic flights if the route in question can be completed via train in under two and a half hours.

The plan was first proposed in 2021 as a means to reduce carbon emissions. It originally called for a ban on eight short-haul flights, but the EC has only agreed to nix three that have quick, easy rail alternatives with several direct connections each way every day.

This is nuts.

But if the French public accepts these new restrictions, similar bans will inevitably be coming to other EU nations.

In the Netherlands, the government is actually going to be buying and shutting down approximately 3,000 farms in order to "reduce its nitrogen pollution"…

The Dutch government is planning to purchase and then close down up to 3,000 farms in an effort to comply with a European Union environmental mandate to slash emissions, according to reports.

Farmers in the Netherlands will be offered "well over" the worth of their farm in an effort to take up the offer voluntarily, The Telegraph reported. The country is attempting to reduce its nitrogen pollution and will make the purchases if not enough farmers accept buyouts.

"There is no better offer coming," Christianne van der Wal, nitrogen minister, told the Dutch parliament on Friday.

This is literally suicidal.

We are in the beginning stages of an unprecedented global food crisis, and the Dutch government has decided that now is the time to shut down thousands of farms?

I don't even have the words to describe how foolish this is.

Speaking of suicide, Canada has found a way to get people to stop emitting any carbon at all once their usefulness is over. Assisted suicide has become quite popular among the Canadians, and the number of people choosing that option keeps setting new records year after year…

Last year, more than 10,000 people in Canada – astonishingly that's over three percent of all deaths there – ended their lives via euthanasia, an increase of a third on the previous year. And it's likely to keep rising: next year, Canada is set to allow people to die exclusively for mental health reasons.

If you are feeling depressed, Canada has a solution for that.

And if you are physically disabled, Canada has a solution for that too…

Only last week, a jaw-dropping story emerged of how, five years into an infuriating battle to obtain a stairlift for her home, Canadian army veteran and Paralympian Christine Gauthier was offered an extraordinary alternative.

A Canadian official told her in 2019 that if her life was so difficult and she so 'desperate', the government would help her to kill herself. 'I have a letter saying that if you're so desperate, madam, we can offer you MAiD, medical assistance in dying,' the paraplegic ex-army corporal testified to Canadian MPs.

"Medical assistance in dying" sounds so clinical.

But ultimately it is the greatest lockdown of all.

Because once you stop breathing, you won’t be able to commit any more “climate sins”.

All over the western world, authoritarianism is growing at a pace that is absolutely breathtaking.

If they can severely restrict travel and shut down farms today, what sort of tyranny will we see in the future?

Sadly, most people in the general population still do not understand what is happening.

Hopefully they will wake up before it is too late.

Stats, Africa: dec8 it's their fault, they're growing khat..

https://www.usnews.com/news/world/articles/2022-11-10/in-yemen-farmers-choose-narcotic-over-other-crops-exacerbating-climate-woes

"It is definitely not like coffee," Garrison Courtney, spokesman for the Drug Enforcement Administration, told the Times. "It is the same drug used by young kids who go out and shoot people in Africa, Iraq and Afghanistan. It is something that gives you a heightened sense of invincibility."

https://www.livescience.com/37948-what-is-khat-cathinone.html

war, middle east, sanctions, government: dec8 Xi JingPing makes first vist to Riyadh in 6 years

While $30 billion in deals will be signed between Beijing and Riyadh, something much bigger is at play which too few have come to properly appreciate.

Xi Jinping last visited the kingdom in 2016, to advance Riyadh’s participation in China’s newly unveiled Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). A January 2016 policy report by the Chinese government to all Arab states reads:

https://tradingeconomics.com/united-states/imports/saudi-arabia#:~:text=United%20States%20Imports%20from%20Saudi%20Arabia%20was%20US%2413.93%20Billion,updated%20on%20December%20of%202022

ai, tech, stats: dec8 robot can self-heal in about a minute after detecting damage, (real story)

This incredible man brought the world the detectable self healing robot

https://news.cornell.edu/stories/2022/12/soft-robot-detects-damage-and-heals-itself

The project builds upon an earlier stretchable sensor, developed in 2016 in Shepherd's Organic Robotics Lab. To create that sensor, researchers sent light through an optical waveguide, and a photodiode detected changes in the beam's intensity to determine when the material was deformed, reports David Nutt in Cornell University.

https://www.wearable-technologies.com/2020/11/stretchable-sensor-provides-skin-like-sensation-to-robots-ar-vr/

censorship, china, stats: dec8 **The insanity of china: if you disrespect historical figures, even on overseas social media, you will be punished severely by the Communist People's Republic of China**

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CHINA / SOCIETY

China’s top court releases typical cases for insulting heroes, martyrs to safeguard Constitution’s authority

Published: Dec 08, 2022 10:11 PM Updated: Dec 08, 2022 10:05 PM

Flower baskets are presented as a tribute to martyrs during a commemorative event at the Chinese People's Volunteers (CPV) martyrs' cemetery in Shenyang, northeast China's Liaoning Province, Sept. 30, 2022. (Xinhua/Li Ang)

China's Supreme People's Court Thursday released 10 typical cases

concerning the protection of the rights and interests of martyrs and relevant memorial facilities. These cases include sentences for the insults and defamation of Chinese agricultural scientist Yuan Longping and Qi Fabao, the regimental commander from the PLA Xinjiang Military Command.

This year marks the 40th anniversary of the promulgation of China’s current Constitution. The typical cases issued by the court not only aim to protect the rights and interests of heroes and martyrs, but also to further safeguard the authority of the Constitution to promote social equity and justice.

An official of China’s Supreme People's Court said that courts across the country will intensify efforts to protect the rights and interests of martyrs, punish illegal and criminal activities that infringe upon their reputations and honor, and properly handle cases filed by martyrs’ families and prosecutors that infringe upon the names, portraits, reputations and honor of martyrs. Civil liabilities shall be determined according to the law for the wrongdoers.

An offender who earlier defamed Chinese agricultural scientist Yuan Longping via overseas social media published a letter in a state-owned media outlet to express a sincere apology to the late scholar and his relatives, promising never to commit such an offense again.

The offender surnamed Zhang was ordered by a local court in Tianjin on May 19 to apologize publicly to eliminate the negative impact, after Zhang published and shared nine times an insulting post about Yuan via an overseas social media platform between May 22 and 24, 2021.

Luo Changping, a former online celebrity and journalist, made a public apology on May 5 for his offensive remarks about the martyrs of the Chinese People's Volunteers (CPV) in a letter published in the Legal Daily newspaper.

Luo, who has more than 2 million followers on the Chinese social media platform Sina Weibo, posted humiliating remarks on CPVs last October when talking about the newly released movie *The Battle at Lake Changjin*.

Luo violated the right of reputation and the right of honor for martyrs by releasing nine satirizing and humiliating posts on Weibo since 2009, which have drawn more than 17 million views and comments. His posts angered many Chinese netizens who reported them to Sina Weibo.

Luo was sentenced to prison for seven months on May 5 in Sanya,

South China's Hainan Province.

The Supreme People's Court vowed to continue to promote the implementation of the policy of preferential treatment for martyrs, ensure that martyrs’ families can enjoy pensions in accordance with laws and regulations, and enjoy better treatment in education, employment, housing and medical care.

At the same time, the country's legislation will also protect the martyrs' memorial facilities from infringement, and will punish the occupation and destruction of land and facilities within relevant areas.

The official from the Supreme Court noted that those who break the law will be liable for different civil and criminal liabilities or administrative penalties, depending on the severity of the act.

Global Times

globaltimesdotcn/page/202212/1281458dotshtml

https://perma.cc/MY5S-7BPU

stats, china, history, planet: dec8 Yuan Longping's discovery of hybrid rice in 1966 is said to have directly fed an extra 100 million Chinese people each year

Yuan’s success inspired hybrid rice production in India, Vietnam and the Philippines. When Japanese geneticist Hiroshi Ikehashi identified a gene that promotes fertility in hybrids in the mid-1980s, Yuan was able to cross diverse plant strains. As a result, rice yields continued to rise when those of hybrid maize and wheat had plateaued. In 1999, it was estimated that the production increases brought about by hybrid rice fed an additional 100 million Chinese people each year (D. Normile *Science* **283**, 313; 1999).

https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-021-01732-2

censorship, government, stats, media: dec8 mutiny within the ranks: colonel alerts public to military's new policy of alerting law enforcement to domestic, non-terrorist, social media posts that could be constued as offensive, or contrary to popular opinion. This seems to be in line with recent announcements that conspiracy theorists will be watched because of the growing domestic terror threat

foxnewsdotcom/media/high-ranking-military-official-called-resign-targeting-mom-upset-pansexuality-posters-school

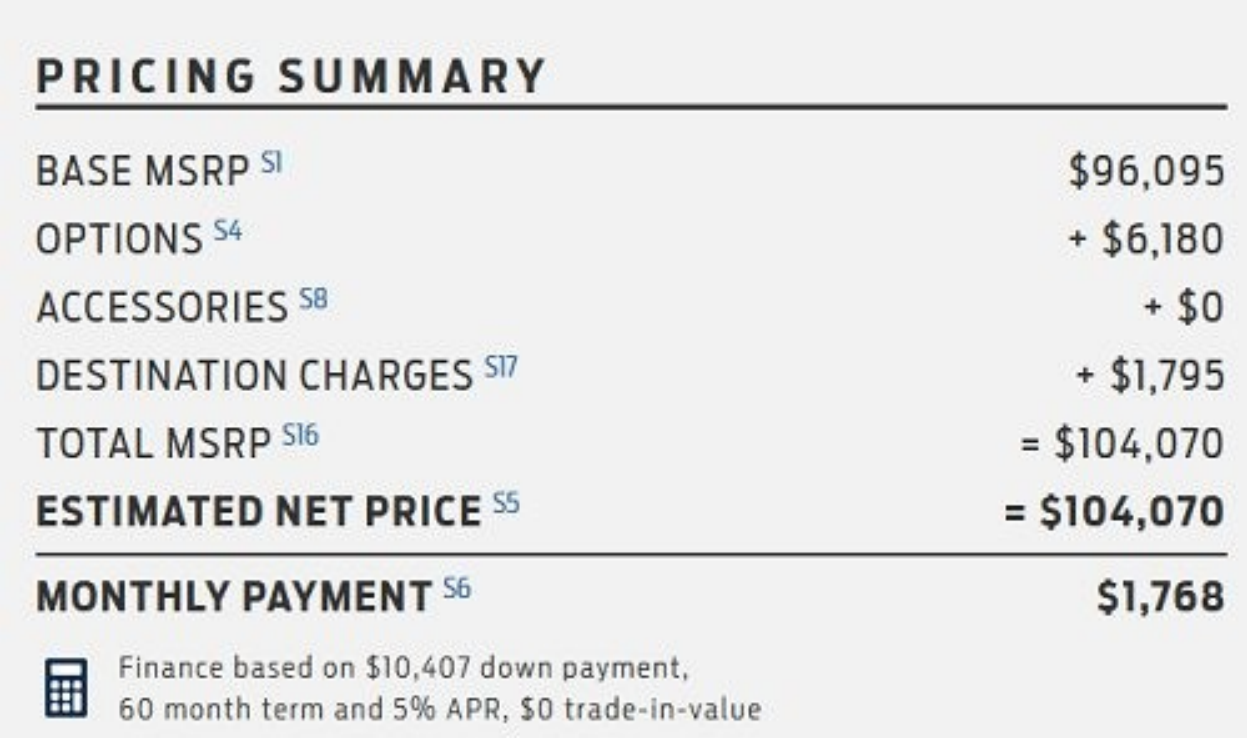
media, history: dec8 histories great women from the 1800's

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Amelia_Edwards

markets, government: dec8

[MSRP $104,070]:$1,768 a Month, with $10,407 Down, 5% APR, on a Ford Pickup

https://wolfstreet.com/2022/12/05/1768-a-month-with-10407-down-5-apr-on-a-ford-pickup-update-on-q3-new-vehicle-finance/



PRICING SUMMARY	
BASE MSRP S1	$96,095
OPTIONS S4	+ $6,180
ACCESSORIES S8	+ $0
DESTINATION CHARGES S17	+ $1,795
TOTAL MSRP S16	= $104,070
ESTIMATED NET PRICE S5	**= $104,070**
MONTHLY PAYMENT S6	**$1,768**

Finance based on $10,407 down payment,
60 month term and 5% APR, $0 trade-in-value

Censorship, media, government: Dec8 Devout Christian, TED CRUZ’s Daughter STABS HERSELF…(she's 14)

https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-11510811/Girl-14-self-inflicted-knife-wounds-Senator-Ted-Cruzs-home.html

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hO_MkcZh-VY

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gplpSfaouP8

ai, tech: dec8 new york post: chatgpt could elimate google and COUNTLESS JOBS--AND LITERALLY, NOT HYPERBOLE

We've trained a model called ChatGPT which interacts in a conversational way. The dialogue format makes it possible for ChatGPT to answer followup questions, admit its mistakes, challenge incorrect premises, and reject inappropriate requests. ChatGPT is a sibling model to InstructGPT, which is trained to follow an instruction in a prompt and provide a detailed response.

https://openai.com/blog/chatgpt/

Rise of the bots: 'Scary' AI ChatGPT could eliminate Google within 2 years

https://nypost.com/2022/12/06/scary-chatgpt-could-render-google-obsolete-in-two-years/

war, history: dec8 649 Argentine military personnel were killed by British Soldiers in the Falklands War in summer, 1982 over a period of 74 days

This is what is written on the official argentina foreign affairs webpage
The Question of the Malvinas Islands has been, is and will remain a key issue for all Argentine nationals, as stated in the First Transitory

Provision of the Argentine Constitution: "The Argentine Nation ratifies its legitimate and imprescriptible sovereignty over the Malvinas, South Georgias and South Sandwich Islands and the surrounding maritime and insular areas, as they are an integral part of the national territory. The recovery of those territories and the full exercise of sovereignty over them, while respecting the lifestyle of their inhabitants and in accordance with the principles of International Law, are a permanent and unrenounceable goal of the Argentine people." HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

weord citation found in wikipedia:

Falklands War

The conflict was a major episode in the protracted dispute over the territories' sovereignty. Argentina asserted (and maintains) that the islands are Argentine territory,[4] and the Argentine government thus characterised its military action as the reclamation of its own territory. The British government regarded the action as an invasion of a territory that had been a Crown colony since 1841. Falkland Islanders, who have inhabited the islands since the early 19th century, are predominantly descendants of British settlers, and strongly favour British sovereignty. Neither state officially declared war, although both governments declared the islands a war zone.

it's found in citation number 4. It is a website called nationaturk, written anonymously. Immediately set off suspicions without even looking at the about page, and before I was convinced the article was written anonymously. Who would write this anonymusly, let alone post it in a citation on wikipeda. How would you even find it? And you also can't find who runs the site, either..

English/World/America/Argentina to reaffirm Sovereignty Rights over The Falkland Islands

AmericaBreaking NewsDailyEuropeHotLatin AmericaPoliticsWorld

Argentina to reaffirm Sovereignty Rights over The Falkland Islands

4 3,200 1 minute read

The Falklands War between Argentina and Britain in 1982

The Argentine government reaffirmed once again their inalienable sovereignty rights over the Falkland Islands, on commemorating the 179th anniversary of the occupation of that territory by British forces.

Buenos Aires / NationalTurk – The Argentine government reaffirmed once again their inalienable sovereignty rights over the Falkland Islands, on commemorating the 179th anniversary of the occupation of that territory by British forces.

The illegal colonial occupation, which dates from January 3, 1833, is currently exacerbated by the “provocative and continued disregard to international law shown by the persistent reluctance of the United Kingdom to resume negotiations” on the subject, informed the Argentina Foreign Ministry.

The Falklands War between Argentina and Britain

The Falklands War began on Friday 2 April 1982, when Argentine forces invaded and occupied the Falkland Islands and South Georgia. The British government dispatched a naval task force to engage the Argentine Navy and Air Force, and retake the islands by amphibious assault. The resulting conflict lasted 74 days and ended with the Argentine surrender on 14 June 1982, which returned the islands to British control. 649 Argentine military personnel, 255 British military personnel and three Falkland Islanders died during the conflict. It remains the most recent external conflict to be fought by the UK without any allied states and the only external Argentine war since the 1880s. Us gave poliştical and logistical support to its little brother UK in the Falkland Islands war, though.

Whom belongs the Falklands ?

In a statement on the anniversary, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs stressed that this illegitimacy is exacerbated by the presence of the military base established in the South Atlantic, falsely based on defence needs, as well as the constant development of unilateral illegal activities in the disputed area, which covers not only the Falklands, but also the South Georgia and South Sandwich islands and the surrounding maritime areas.

Referring to the exploration and oil prospecting and to the military exercises being carried out by the UK in the disputed area, the text stresses that they are contrary to resolutions of the UN General Assembly.

Other events that stand out in Argentina's defense history is the loss of their newly retrofitted submarine due to a malfunction in 2017, and the Russian support given to their military during the Falkans war with Britian, something that was apparently a secret according to this article:
"Despite this information, much more remains to be known about the secret involvement of both the Soviet Union and the West in the Falklands conflict. Until the release of secret information that still gathers dust in state archives, the guesswork is left to us."

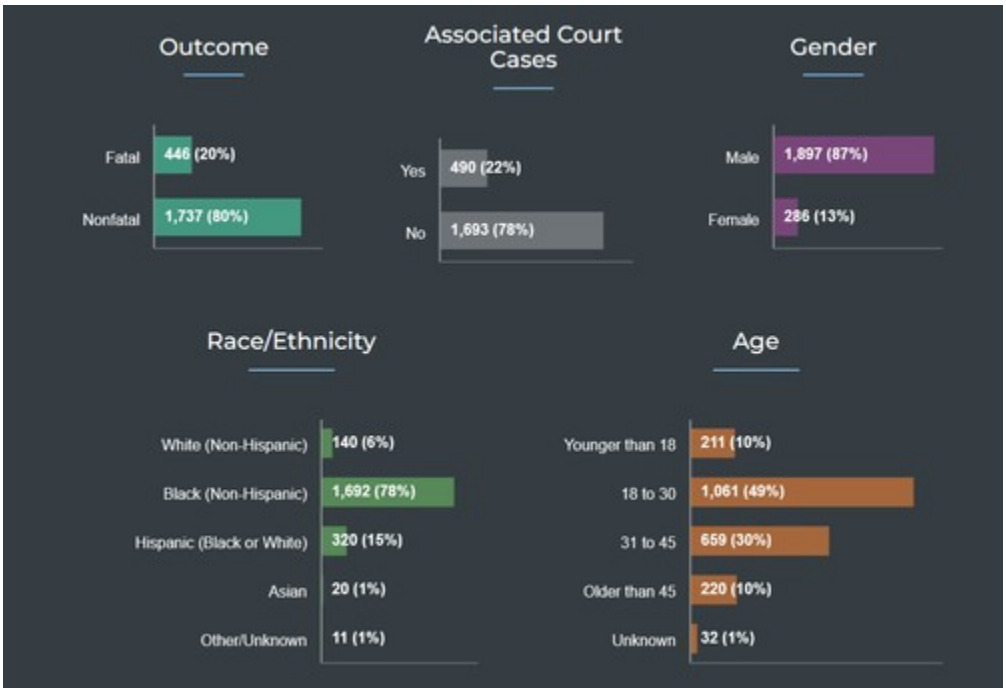
War is deception, and very serious. Enemies don't showcase their intentions to each other--not openly anyways.

Media, journal, censorship, government: dec8 More evidence that black neighborhoods are being purposefully turned into warzones. They hate them

It's no secret Philadelphia is a dangerous city.

In 2019, the murder rate was **22.47 per 100,000** residents according to FBI data, with 331 homicides that year. Fast forward three years, **and there have been 480 murders *year-to-date*.**

Most affected are black males between the age of 18 and 45.



According to city statistics released in September, **overall shootings have increased by 3%** over last year, while **violent crime is up 7%**. Robberies involving guns are up 60%, while rapes are down more than 25%. Property crimes are up **over 30%. Businesses getting hit particularly hard - with commercial burglaries up a staggering 50%**, according to *Axios Philadelphia*. What's more, **the city's drug crisis is spiraling further out of control with a new drug called "Tranq"** - an anesthetic and pain reliever used to treat horses and cattle, and which turns people into zombies.

Crime is so out of control that the Philadelphia City Council recently approved a **10 p.m. curfew** for anyone under the age of 18 - making a temporary summertime law permanent.

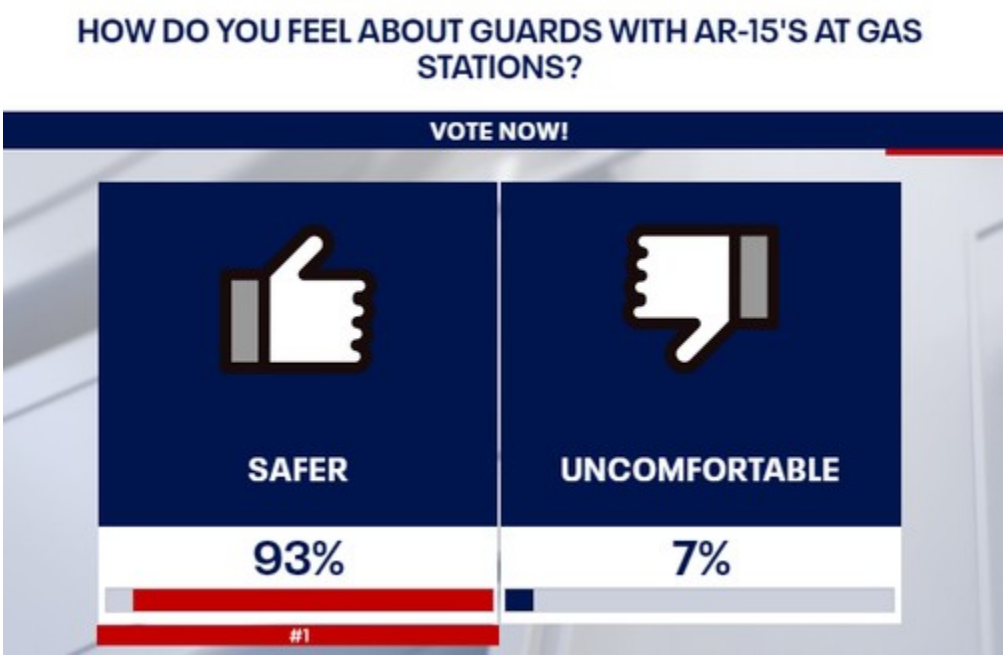
To combat the crime wave, **Philadelphia gas station owners have turned to hiring heavily armed guards**.

"**They are forcing us to hire the security, high-level security, state level**," said Karco gas station owner, Neil Patel, who has recruited Kevlar-clad S.I.T.E. agents packing AR-15s or shotguns. "We are tired of this nonsense; robbery, drug trafficking, hanging around, gangs," *Fox5* reports.

The final straw for Patel after his business was reportedly vandalized by young people who stole an ATM machine. His car has also been a casualty of crime, according to the report.

"We wear Kevlar, we are trained, my guards go to training every other week, they're proficient with [their guns] and with their taser, they know the law," said police chief Andre Boyer.

A realtime online poll on *Fox5*'s website reveals that **93% say they feel safer with guards who have AR-15s at gas stations**:



When asked about residents who are concerned over the gun-toting guards, Patel said: "I listen to them, but according to some people, violent people, they carry the guns, they're not afraid of them? This is the protection for the neighborhood and the customers."

War, middle east: dec8 900 troops in sdf controlled areas in northern syria, kurdistan region

The US has about 900 troops in SDF-controlled areas of Syria, keeping the territory out of the hands of Damascus. The US paused patrols with the SDF as a result of recent Turkish airstrikes but said they resumed this week.

U.S. army creates own cogen operator through, well, to put it simply: theft. I know I sound like a niave civilian here, but that's what it is, cogeneration-by-theft.

John Kirby, spokesman for the National Security Council, told reporters Friday that, as in the past, when there are Turkish operations in northern Syria, it has had an impact on the counter-ISIS operations as SDF forces concentrate on

defending themselves in northern Syria. The U.S. said the SDF’s decision to pause its missions against the Islamic State group triggered the U.S. decision to do so as well

War, Germany, holy roman empire:

germany has invaded france 3 times over the past 150 years

Germany had invaded France twice in living memory, in World War I and World War II, and also defeated France in the Franco-Prussian War of 1870/71

Stats, china: asian protectionism and centralized control is apparently not new

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Haijin#Ming

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thirteen_Factories

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Canton_System

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_opium_in_China#Early_history

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Century_of_humiliation

This puke is as ignorant as the fools that bred him. It's worth watching, "This is a long, but extremely informative explanation of China's "Century of Humiliation" and will leave no doubt in your mind as to why China wants a unified society and a powerful military.

Historian Carl Zha of the Silk & Steel podcast joins me to talk about China's "Century of Humiliation" at the hands of Western powers and how it connects directly to US-Chinese tensions today.

- How the US has repeatedly made treaties and agreements with China only to betray them when US interests demand;
- The West's historical use of Hong Kong and Taiwan as hubs to destabilize and dominate over the rest of China;
- The historical use by the West of China for cheap labor and for markets to exploit;
- The threat China faced for lacking a strong military and a unified population;
- The clear motivations China has for a military and political system used to protect itself from further interference and exploitation; ' ,,,,,, New Atlas, Brian Berletic . . .. China's "Century of Humiliation" & US-Chinese Tensions Today w/Carl Zha
2 m
rtdotcom/news/567784-arm-taiwan-not-ukraine-hawley/

stats, war, history: dec7 cool medium page

jeff-kaye.mediumdotcom/secret-plan-revealed-cia-told-to-destroy-those-supporting-communist-germ-warfare-myth-f466dfb071be

censorship, vaccine: dec7 lose doctors license if you don't regurgitate official dovid talking point put out by CDC

Governor Gavin Newsom signed AB 2098 into law in September, meaning that starting in 2023, doctors who disseminate what the state defines as "misinformation or disinformation related to the SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus" can face disciplinary action by the California Medical Board, including being stripped of their licenses.

"It essentially ends your ability to combat bad ideas put out by public health because you have this looming power that over you that essentially can end your career," says Bhattacharya.

Media, stats: dec7 America 2022...

investmentwatchblogdotcom/a-north-philly-owner-says-hes-had-enough-violent-crime-at-his-gas-station-so-hes-hired-these-guys-to-protect-his-customers-and-store/

stats, tech: dec7 Short term memory problems can be improved with laser therapy

https://www.birmingham.ac.uk/news/2022/short-term-memory-problems-can-be-improved-with-laser-therapy

stats: un-peer reviewed research posts, Cornell U

https://arxiv.org/

stats, tech: dec6 3-d printed violin

https://interestingengineering.com/innovation/3d-print-low-cost-durable-violin

stats, censorship: dec6 Western Australian man’s $580k live savings disappears from Ubank account

https://www.news.com.au/finance/business/banking/western-australian-mans-580k-live-savings-disappear-from-ubank-account/news-story/d4ba3f60cf0ebbdecdd1f2ed88188afd

stats, ai, tech, censorship: dec6

Microsoft sacks journalists to replace them with robots

https://www.theguardian.com/technology/2020/may/30/microsoft-sacks-journalists-to-replace-them-with-robots

china, war, sanction, Russia: dec6

permalink:globaltimes in black-and-white today; the 1st day after the 1st attack INSIDE--LET ME REPEAT--INSIDE, Russia

https://perma.cc/U5TD-JB7R

journal, markets: dec6 hilarious. they just commit fraud right out in the open and don't get in trouble for it--massive fraud...

The biggest joke after all the oil price cap fanfare is that according to Reuters, buyers must provide documents such as invoices to shipping companies or insurers to show they stuck to the cap **but it will be essentially down to self-monitoring, with no penalties for providers of shipping services if they operated in good faith.** One can imaging how efficient self-monitoring will be when there are millions of dollars daily on the line for those who breach the rules.

zerohedgedotcom/markets/russian-oil-sanctions-send-prices-old-tankers-new-records

The European Commission has fined **Bank of America Merrill Lynch**, **Crédit Agricole**, and **Credit Suisse** a total of € 28 494 000 for breaching EU antitrust rules.

The four investment banks participated in a cartel through a core group of traders working in their USD SSA bonds divisions, who were in regular contact with each other. *A bond is a type of debt security that enables entities to raise cash. Bonds are issued on the primary market and then traded by financial institutions on the secondary market. On the secondary market, potential customers, such as investment and pension funds, approach the banks in order to get an independent quotation of price and quantity available of the bonds of a specific issuer.* Bonds are distinguished by currency. This particular case refers to SSA bonds issued in US dollars.

The traders, who were in direct competition, typically logged into multilateral chatrooms or bilateral chatrooms on Bloomberg terminals. They knew each other on a personal basis, thus creating a closed circle of trust. They provided each other with recurring updates on their trading activities, exchanged commercially sensitive information, coordinated on prices shown to their customers, or to the market in general and aligned their trading activities on the secondary market for these bonds. The conduct took place during a five-year period and affected the trading of US denominated SSA bonds on the secondary market in the entire EEA.

ecdoteuropadoteu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_2004

Whatever the reason, the darkness that started growing around the crimes committed by the big Wall Street banks during the Obama administration has now evolved into such a complete dark curtain that regulators are refusing to say what the crimes actually are that are being settled for huge amounts of money.

On October 7, the Federal Reserve and Office of the Comptroller of the Currency (OCC) announced consent decrees with Citigroup, the third largest bank in the country. The OCC imposed a $400 million fine on Citigroup’s federally-insured commercial bank, Citibank, and stated in its Consent Order that it had “identified unsafe or unsound practices with respect to the Bank’s internal controls, including, among other things, an absence of clearly defined roles and responsibilities and noncompliance with multiple laws and regulations.”

But for the first time in more than 35 years of our reading these Consent Orders against Wall Street banks, the documents from both the OCC and Federal Reserve failed to specify exactly what crimes the bank had committed. We were so stunned by a $400 million fine for crimes that can’t be put in print or shared with the public, that we

penned the headline: Citigroup Is Slapped with a $400 Million Fine for Doing Something So Bad It Can’t Be Spoken Out Loud.

Yesterday, as further proof that this is a pattern coming out of the Trump administration, the OCC did the exact same thing with JPMorgan Chase, the largest bank in the country which on September 29 admitted to its fourth and fifth criminal felony charges brought by the U.S. Department of Justice in the past six years.

Yesterday, the OCC fined JPMorgan Chase $250 million without detailing any specific crimes it had committed. The Consent Order simply said the bank had, for several years, “maintained a weak management and control framework for its fiduciary activities and had an insufficient audit program for, and inadequate internal controls over, those activities. Among other things, the Bank had deficient risk management practices and an insufficient framework for avoiding conflicts of interest.”

A Wall Street bank like JPMorgan Chase that has brazenly committed five felonies for very specific crimes, doesn’t get fined $250 million for non-specific crimes. Something very bad has once again happened at JPMorgan Chase and its federal regulators who are all rushing to get new jobs on Wall Street, or at Wall Street’s outside law firms, don’t want to talk about it.

Government, inflation, planet: dec6 30% of the EU's 2 trillion NextGenerationEU fund is planned to go towards 'fighting climate change'

"The palace of parliament is one of the biggest buildings in the world by space. It was built between 1983 and 1989 by order of the dictator Nicolae Ceaușescu. To create it historical buildings containing 40,000 flats and a dozen churches were destroyed. The building costs were around 40 % of the gross national income of the country."
https://the-passenger.de/2021/09/29/palatul-parlamentului-bucuresti/

...He was executed on a public display on that very same year. This is what the building looks like 20 years later...

The Palace of the Parliament is the heaviest building in the world, weighing about 4,098,500,000 kilograms (9.04 billion pounds; 4.10 million tonnes), also being the second largest administrative building in the world.[3] (The Great Pyramid of Giza is about 50% heavier.)
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Palace_of_the_Parliament

The trial of Nicolae and Elena Ceaușescu was held on 25 December 1989 by an Exceptional Military Tribunal, a drumhead court-martial created at the request of a newly formed group called the National Salvation Front. Its outcome was pre-determined, and it resulted in guilty verdicts and death sentences for former Romanian President and Romanian Communist Party General Secretary, Nicolae Ceaușescu, and his wife, Elena Ceaușescu.[1]

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Trial_and_execution_of_Nicolae_and_Elena_Ceau%C8%99escu

journal, censorship, government: dec5 (The yolo generation)start writing about spirituality. start slow; it'll come to you. The world is at a crucible moment, and decency is truly erroding (something that also tends to happen during war)

DAILY CALLER

Euthanasia Is Now A Leading Cause Of Death In Canada, And Ethicists Are Freaking Out

Dylan Housman

Euthanasia is now a leading cause of death in Canada only a few years after being legalized.

Euthanasia became a legal option for Canadians 18 years and older in 2016, who had to prove suffering from severe pain and have a reasonably foreseeable death, as well as two doctors signing off on the decision.

Other countries where euthanasia is legal have certain safeguards, such as prohibiting doctors from mentioning it as a treatment option for patients or requiring them to exhaust all other treatment options before turning to euthanasia as a last resort. Canada has no such guardrails, according to AP.

The broad eligibility has led to more than 10,000 Canadians being euthanized in the most recent year for which data is available, making it the sixth leading cause of death in the country, the AP reported.

Some disabled Canadians are choosing to be euthanized not because of their disability, but because of mounting medical debts, the AP found.

Now, any adult with a serious disease or a mental health reason can seek euthanasia, according to the AP. The policy is also creeping forward to encompass the mentally ill, poor, and soon children, with some experts saying the law is going too far.

"[The law is] probably the biggest existential threat to disabled people since the Nazis' program in Germany in the 1930s," Tim Stainton, director of the Canadian Institute for Inclusion and Citizenship at the University of British Columbia, told the AP.

Pope Francis also decried the idea that some patients would be "administered death" rather than affection. **(RELATED: Former Columbia**

Sean Tagert, a 41-year-old man suffering from ALS, opted for euthanasia in 2019 in part because he couldn't keep up with high costs to allow him to continue living at home with caretakers, according to AP. Roger Foley, a man hospitalized in Ontario with a degenerative brain disease, was told by one staffer that it would cost $1,500 per day to keep him alive in the hospital before mentioning euthanasia, the outlet reported.

The United Nations has raised concerns with Canada's government about the euthanasia policy. Independent experts continue to call for more restrictions. But the government is pushing ahead, insisting the aim is to help Canadians "die with dignity" if they so choose.

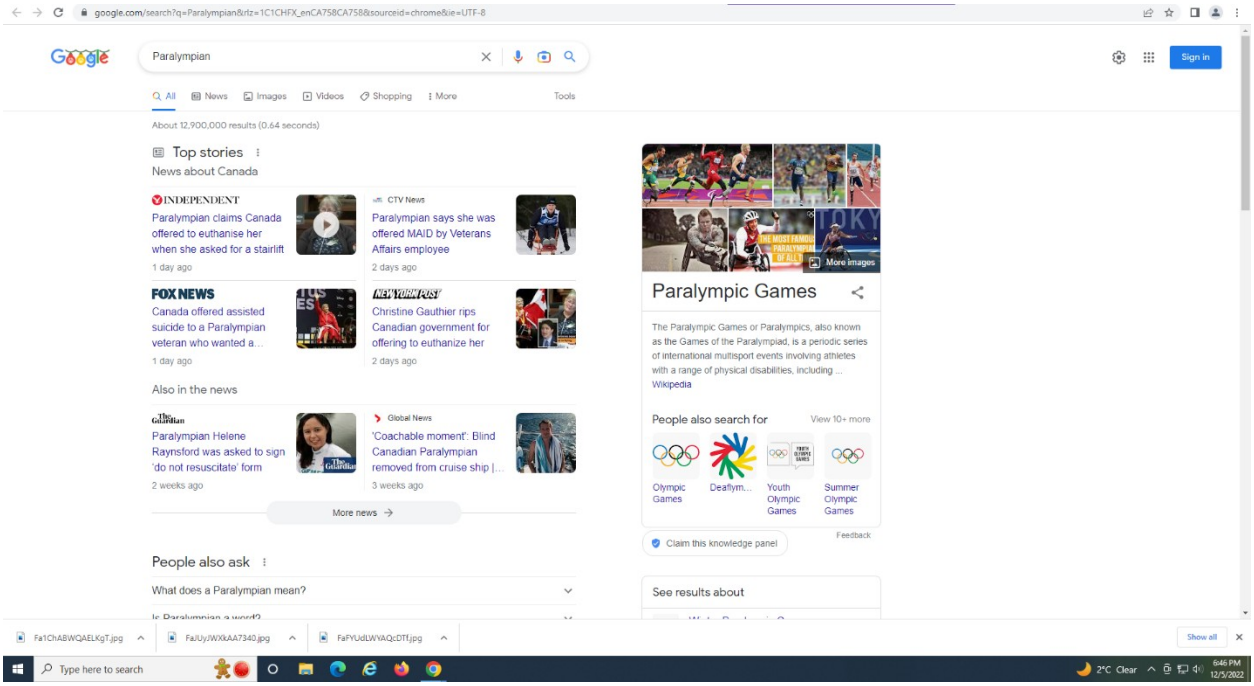
FOX NEWS

CANADA · **Published** August 22, 2022 11:38am EDT

Canadian soldier suffering with PTSD offered euthanasia by Veterans Affairs

Medical assistance in dying, or euthanasia, was legalized in Canada in 2016

By **Michael Lee | Fox News**



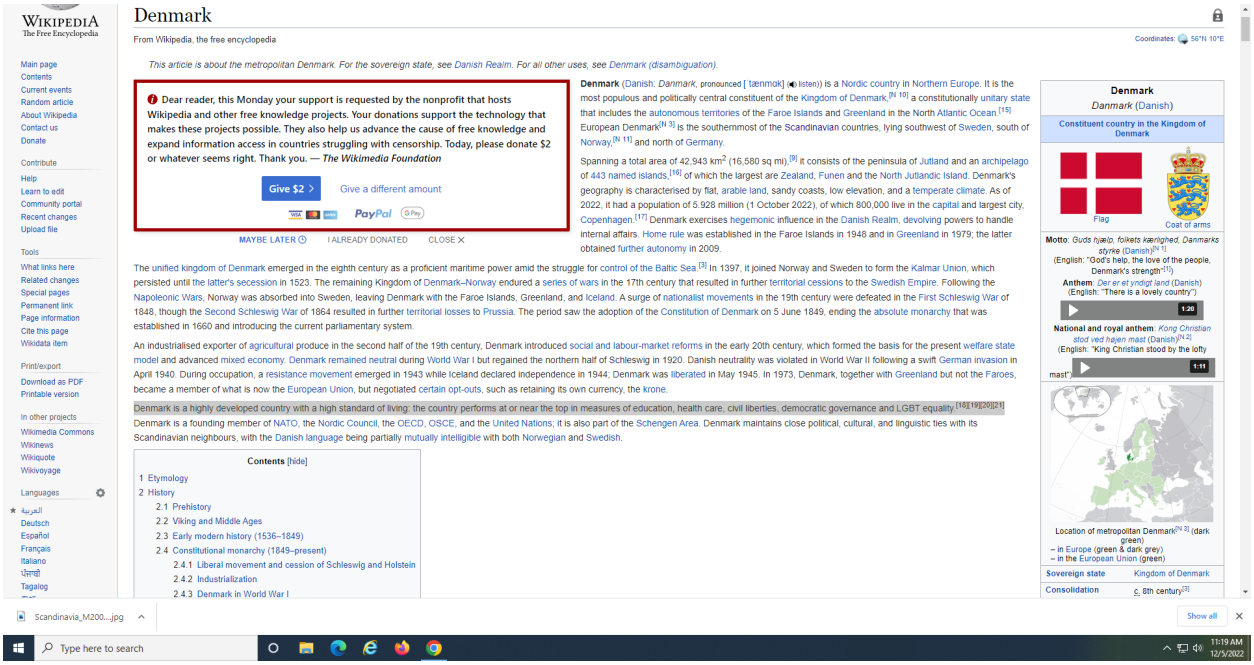
War, stats: dec5 Jens Stoltenberg is a Norwegian politician. his tenure coincided with the largest increase in NATO defense spending since the Cold War.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jens_Stoltenberg

Germany, war dec5 german state broadcast, info on chanceller

The office of Chancellor has a long history, stemming back to the Holy Roman Empire, when the office of German archchancellor was usually held by archbishops of Mainz.
rmxdotnews/germany/norway-and-germany-ask-nato-to-protect-underwater-gas-pipelines/
https://www.dw.com/en/top-stories/s-9097
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chancellor_of_Germany

stats, censorship: dec5 Aren't civil liberties and LGTQXB rights the same thing?


WIKIPEDIA
The Free Encyclopedia
Denmark
From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia
This article is about the metropolitan Denmark. For the sovereign state, see Danish Realm. For all other uses, see Denmark (disambiguation).
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Give $2 >
Give a different amount
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MAYBE LATER
I ALREADY DONATED
CLOSE
Denmark (Danish: Danmark, pronounced [ˈtænmɔɡ] (listen)) is a Nordic country in Northern Europe. It is the most populous and politically central constituent of the Kingdom of Denmark,[N 10] a constitutionally unitary state that includes the autonomous territories of the Faroe Islands and Greenland in the North Atlantic Ocean.[15] European Denmark[N 3] is the southernmost of the Scandinavian countries, lying southwest of Sweden, south of Norway,[N 11] and north of Germany.
Spanning a total area of 42,943 km² (16,580 sq mi),[9] it consists of the peninsula of Jutland and an archipelago of 443 named islands,[16] of which the largest are Zealand, Funen and the North Jutlandic Island. Denmark's geography is characterised by flat, arable land, sandy coasts, low elevation, and a temperate climate. As of 2022, it had a population of 5.928 million (1 October 2022), of which 800,000 live in the capital and largest city, Copenhagen.[17] Denmark exercises hegemonic influence in the Danish Realm, devolving powers to handle internal affairs. Home rule was established in the Faroe Islands in 1948 and in Greenland in 1979; the latter obtained further autonomy in 2009.
The unified kingdom of Denmark emerged in the eighth century as a proficient maritime power amid the struggle for control of the Baltic Sea.[3] In 1397, it joined Norway and Sweden to form the Kalmar Union, which persisted until the latter's secession in 1523. The remaining Kingdom of Denmark–Norway endured a series of wars in the 17th century that resulted in further territorial cessions to the Swedish Empire. Following the Napoleonic Wars, Norway was absorbed into Sweden, leaving Denmark with the Faroe Islands, Greenland, and Iceland. A surge of nationalist movements in the 19th century were defeated in the First Schleswig War of 1848, though the Second Schleswig War of 1864 resulted in further territorial losses to Prussia. The period saw the adoption of the Constitution of Denmark on 5 June 1849, ending the absolute monarchy that was established in 1660 and introducing the current parliamentary system.
An industrialised exporter of agricultural produce in the second half of the 19th century, Denmark introduced social and labour-market reforms in the early 20th century, which formed the basis for the present welfare state model and advanced mixed economy. Denmark remained neutral during World War I but regained the northern half of Schleswig in 1920. Danish neutrality was violated in World War II following a swift German invasion in April 1940. During occupation, a resistance movement emerged in 1943 while Iceland declared independence in 1944; Denmark was liberated in May 1945. In 1973, Denmark, together with Greenland but not the Faroes, became a member of what is now the European Union, but negotiated certain opt-outs, such as retaining its own currency, the krone.
Denmark is a highly developed country with a high standard of living: the country performs at or near the top in measures of education, health care, civil liberties, democratic governance and LGBT equality.[18][19][20][21]
Denmark is a founding member of NATO, the Nordic Council, the OECD, OSCE, and the United Nations; it is also part of the Schengen Area. Denmark maintains close political, cultural, and linguistic ties with its Scandinavian neighbours, with the Danish language being partially mutually intelligible with both Norwegian and Swedish.
Contents [hide]
1 Etymology
2 History
2.1 Prehistory
2.2 Viking and Middle Ages
2.3 Early modern history (1536–1849)
2.4 Constitutional monarchy (1849–present)
2.4.1 Liberal movement and cession of Schleswig and Holstein
2.4.2 Industrialization
2.4.3 Denmark in World War I
Denmark
Danmark (Danish)
Constituent country in the Kingdom of Denmark
Flag
Coat of arms
Motto: Guds hjælp, folkets kærlighed, Danmarks styrke (Danish)[N 1]
(English: "God's help, the love of the people, Denmark's strength")
Anthem: Der er et yndigt land (Danish)
(English: "There is a lovely country")
National and royal anthem: Kong Christian stod ved højen mast (Danish)[N 2]
(English: "King Christian stood by the lofty mast")
Location of metropolitan Denmark[N 3] (dark green)
– in Europe (green & dark grey)
– in the European Union (green)
Sovereign state
Kingdom of Denmark
Consolidation
c. 8th century[3]
Scandinavia_M200....jpg
Show all
Type here to search
11:19 AM
12/5/2022

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Denmark

stats, war, middle east: dec5 read later: https://www.counterextremism.com/extremists/mohammad-pakpour has all these slideshows.

History, china: dec5 christians and chinese fighting, boxer rebellion, opium wears

A major cause of discontent in north China was missionary activity. The Treaty of Tientsin (Tianjin) and the Convention of Peking, signed in 1860 after the Second Opium War, had granted foreign missionaries the freedom to preach anywhere in China and to buy land on which to build churches.[19] On 1 November 1897, a band of armed men who were perhaps members of the Big Swords Society stormed the residence of a German missionary from the Society of the Divine Word and killed two priests. This attack is known as the Juye Incident. When Kaiser Wilhelm II received news of these murders, he dispatched the German East Asia Squadron to occupy Jiaozhou Bay on the southern coast of the Shandong peninsula.[20]

History, china, war: Mukden Incident (pretext for invasion of manchuria, (sept181931)

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Japanese_invasion_of_Manchuria

On September 18, 1931, Lieutenant Suemori Kawamoto of the Independent Garrison Unit of the 29th Japanese Infantry Regiment (□□□□□) detonated a small quantity of dynamite[4] close to a railway line owned by Japan's South Manchuria Railway near Mukden (now Shenyang).[5] The explosion was so weak that it failed to destroy the track, and a train passed over it minutes later. The Imperial Japanese Army accused Chinese dissidents of the act and responded with a full invasion that led to the occupation of Manchuria, in which Japan established its puppet state of Manchukuo six months later. The deception was exposed by the Lytton Report of 1932, leading Japan to diplomatic isolation and its March 1933 withdrawal from the League of Nations.[6]

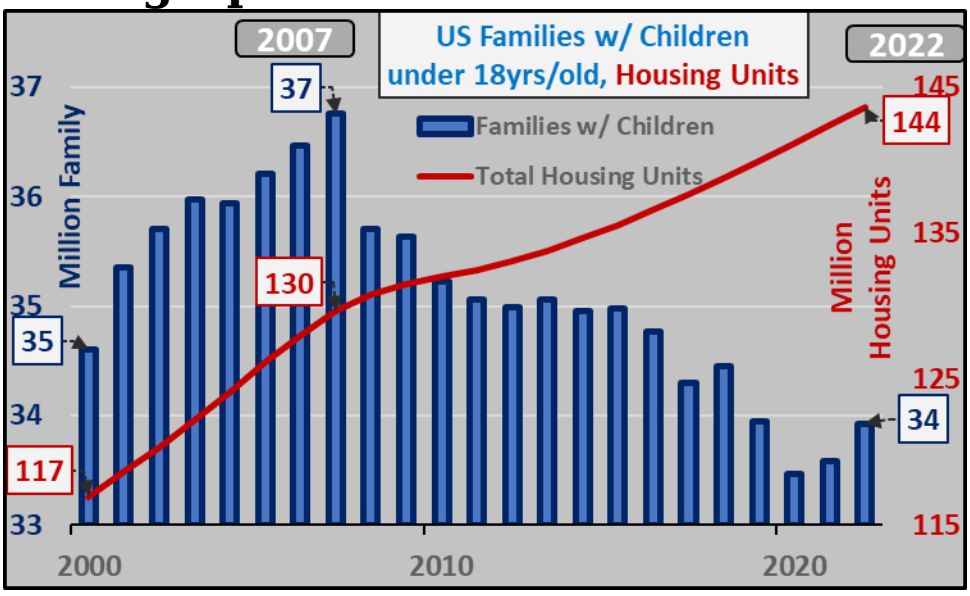
also known as the Liutiao Lake Incident

stats, iran, war, middle east: dec4 Iranian intervention in Iraq (2014–present)
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Iranian_intervention_in_Iraq_(2014%E2%80%93present)

stats: cool website:blacklistednews.com

media, government: Boy, 10, 'shot mother dead after she refused to buy him a virtual reality headset' on Amazon
https://news.sky.com/story/boy-10-shot-mother-dead-after-she-refused-to-buy-him-a-virtual-reality-headset-12759406

stats, government, housing: dec4 **cool demographics chart beside total housing units**



Islam, media: **why islam should be banned.**
https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-asia-63838213

media, censorship, government: dec4 **disabled parolympian says offered medicially assisted suicide by social worker after complaining that she didn't have a stair lift https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-11497589/Paraplegic-Canadian-veteran-says-government-caseworker-offered-euthanasia.html**

history, government: dec3 **perfect, quick ACTUAL breakdown of the british east india company's entrance into india, complete with full timeline and embedded links**

Company rule in India

The company's victory under Robert Clive in the 1757 Battle of Plassey and another victory in the 1764 Battle of Buxar (in Bihar), consolidated the company's power, and forced emperor Shah Alam II to appoint it the *diwan*, or revenue collector, of Bengal, Bihar, and Orissa. The Company thus became the de facto ruler of large areas of the lower Gangetic plain by 1773. It also proceeded by degrees to expand its dominions around Bombay and Madras. The Anglo-Mysore Wars (1766–1799) and the Anglo-Maratha Wars (1772–1818) left it in control of large areas of India south of the Sutlej River. With the defeat of the Marathas, no native power represented a threat for the Company any longer.[11]

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Company_rule_in_India

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/British_Raj

stats, war, Erdogan, middle east: dec3 **2019 Turkish offensive into north-eastern Syria https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2019_Turkish_offensive_into_north-eastern_Syria**

middle east, Erdogan, war: dec3(OCT152019)Russia has said Turkey’s invasion of north-eastern Syria is unacceptable

Russia has said Turkey’s invasion of north-eastern Syria is unacceptable and was not agreed with Moscow in advance. Turkey has launched an assault into Syria to claim territory held by Kurdish groups after US troops withdrew from the area. Russia in response brokered a deal between the Kurds and the government in Damascus for the Syrian army to move into the territory.

“We always called for restraint from Turkey, we always believed that some kind of military operation in Syria was unacceptable,” Alexander Lavrentiev, President Vladimir Putin’s special envoy for Syria, told reporters.

Mr Lavrentiev also said that “real time” negotiations were taking place between the Turkish and Syrian governments amid the threat of armed conflict between the two states’ militaries.

“A dialogue between Turkey and Syria is taking place, it is taking place continuously,” he said, in remarks published by state-run news agencies. “Negotiations are proceeding in real time between the defence and foreign ministries and special services.”

Russia, which backs Syrian president Bashar al-Assad, is the most powerful foreign military in the more than eight-year-long civil war in Syria.

Erdogan, war, journal: dec3 they kidnapped the general of turkey and tried to legitimately stage a coup

"Hulusi Akar (born 12 March 1952) is the current Turkish minister of defense and a former four-star Turkish Armed Forces general who served as the 29th chief of the Turkish General Staff.[2] Akar also served as a brigade commander in various NATO engagements including the International Security Assistance Force against the Taliban insurgency, Operation Deliberate

Force during the Bosnian War, the Kosovo Force during the Kosovo War, as well as overseeing much of the Turkish involvement in the Syrian Civil War.[3][4][5]"

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hulusi_Akar
https://www.dailysabah.com/politics/2016/07/16/turkeys-chief-of-staff-hulusi-akar-rescued-from-pro-coup-soldiers

After decades of negationiations for entry into the EU, all talks officially came to a standstill on February 20th, 2019.

"Turkey is negotiating its accession to the European Union (EU) as a member state, following its application to become a full member of the European Economic Community (EEC), the predecessor of the EU, on 14 April 1987.[2]

After the ten founding members in 1949, Turkey became one of the first new members (the 13th member) of the Council of Europe in 1950.[3][4] **The country became an associate member of the European Economic Community (EEC) in 1963 and was an associate member of the Western European Union from 1992 to its end in 2011. Turkey signed a Customs Union agreement with the EU in 1995 and was officially recognised as a candidate for full membership on 12 December 1999, at the Helsinki summit of the European Council.**

Negotiations for full membership were started on 3 October 2005.[5] **Progress was slow: out of the 35 chapters necessary to complete the accession process, only 16 had been opened and one had been closed by May 2016.**[6] **The early 2016 refugee deal between Turkey and the European Union was intended to accelerate negotiations after previous stagnation and allow visa-free travel through Europe for Turks.**[7]

Since 2016, accession negotiations have stalled.[8] **The EU has accused and criticized Turkey for human rights violations and deficits in rule of law.**[9] **In 2017, EU officials expressed that planned Turkish policies violate the Copenhagen criteria of eligibility for an EU membership.**[10] **On 26 June 2018, the EU's General Affairs Council stated that "Turkey has been moving further away from the European Union.**

On 20 February 2019, a European parliament committee voted to suspend the accession talks, sparking criticism from the government of Turkey.[11][12][13] **Turkey's accession negotiations have therefore effectively come to a standstill and no further chapters can be considered for opening or closing and no further work towards the modernisation of the EU-Turkey Customs Union is foreseen."**[14][15][16][17][18]"

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Accession_of_Turkey_to_the_European_Union

stats, government: dec3 The Top 100 Most Valuable Brands In 2022 (i call it the world in a nutshell

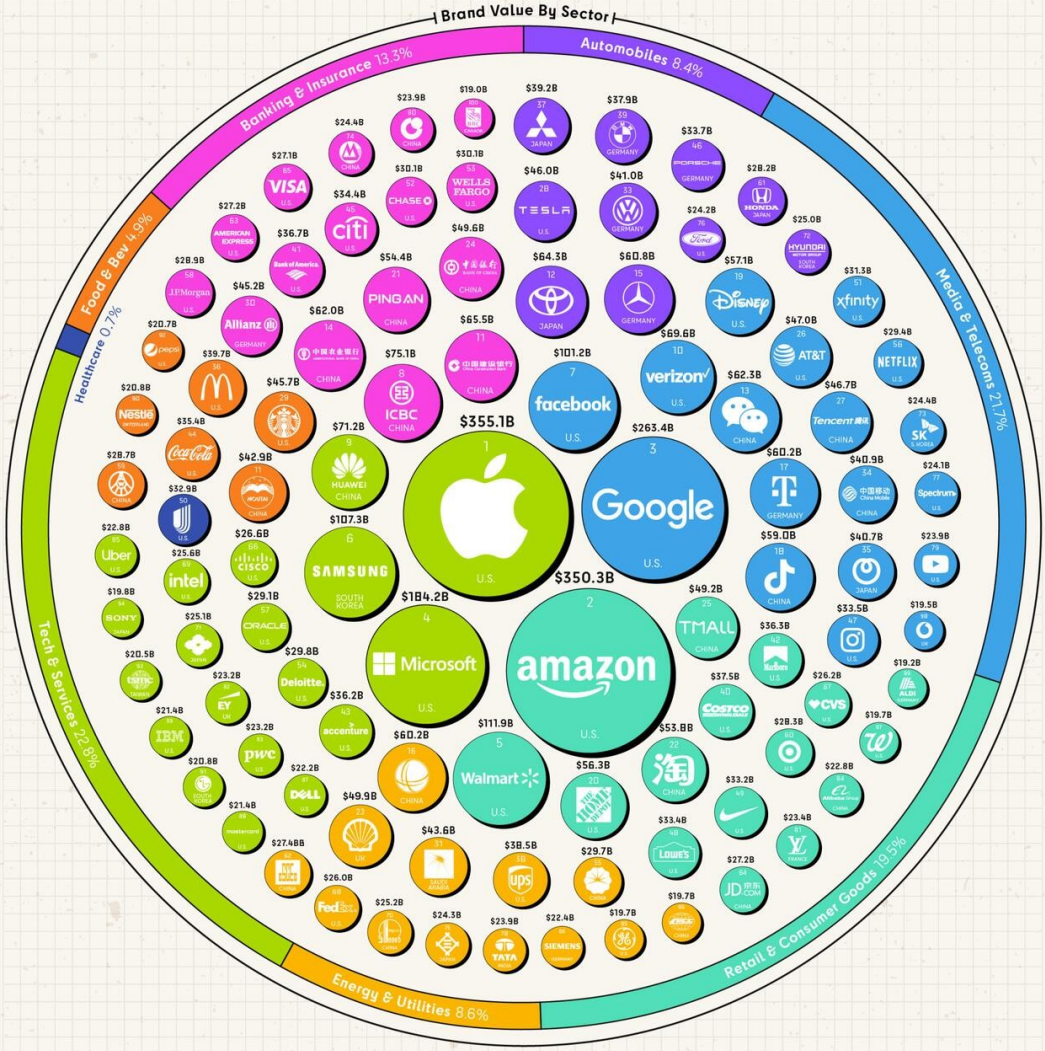
The Top 100 Most

Most Valuable Brands 2022

When leveraged well, a strong brand has the ability to generate immense value over a long period of time—but how do we measure a brand's value?

This annual Global 500 Report from Brand Finance connects brands to the bottom line.

HOW TO READ THIS: 10 COMPANY U.S. — GLOBAL RANK; CIRCLE SIZE BASED ON BRAND VALUE; MARKET OF ORIGIN

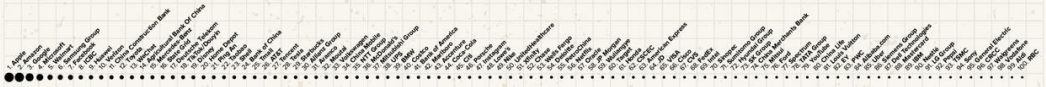

Brand Value By Sector
Banking & Insurance 13.3%
Automobiles 8.4%
Media & Telecoms 21.7%
Retail & Consumer Goods 19.5%
Energy & Utilities 8.6%
Tech & Services 22.8%
Healthcare 0.7%
Food & Bev 4.9%
1 Apple $355.1B U.S.
2 Amazon $350.3B U.S.
3 Google $263.4B U.S.
4 Microsoft $184.2B U.S.
5 Walmart $111.9B U.S.
6 Samsung $107.3B South Korea
7 facebook $101.2B U.S.
8 ICBC $75.1B China
9 Huawei $71.2B China
10 Verizon $69.6B U.S.
11 China Construction Bank $65.5B China
12 Toyota $64.3B Japan
13 Tencent $62.3B China
14 Agricultural Bank of China $62.0B China
15 Mercedes-Benz $60.8B Germany
16 Alibaba $60.2B China
17 T-Mobile $60.2B Germany
18 TikTok $59.0B China
19 Disney $57.1B U.S.
20 Home Depot $56.3B U.S.
21 Ping An $54.4B China
22 Taobao $53.8B China
23 Shell $49.9B U.K.
24 Bank of China $49.6B China
25 TMall $49.2B China
26 AT&T $47.0B U.S.
27 Tencent $46.7B China
28 Tesla $46.0B U.S.
29 Starbucks $45.7B U.S.
30 Allianz $45.2B Germany
31 JP Morgan $28.9B U.S.
32 Bank of America $36.7B U.S.
33 Volkswagen $41.0B Germany
34 China Mobile $40.9B China
35 Rakuten $40.7B Japan
36 Nike $33.2B U.S.
37 Toyota $39.2B Japan
38 UPS $38.5B U.S.
39 BMW $37.9B Germany
40 Costco $37.5B U.S.
41 Accenture $36.2B U.S.
42 Target $36.3B U.S.
43 Mercedes-Benz $43.6B Germany
44 Coca-Cola $35.4B U.S.
45 Instagram $33.5B U.S.
46 Porsche $33.7B Germany
47 Lowe's $33.4B U.S.
48 Louis Vuitton $23.4B France
49 Honda $28.2B Japan
50 Hyundai $25.0B South Korea
51 Xfinity $31.3B U.S.
52 Chase $30.1B U.S.
53 Wells Fargo $30.1B U.S.
54 Ford $24.2B U.S.
55 Citi $34.4B U.S.
56 American Express $27.2B U.S.
57 Visa $27.1B U.S.
58 Pepsi $20.7B U.S.
59 McDonald's $39.7B U.S.
60 Nestlé $20.8B Switzerland
61 Uber $22.8B U.S.
62 Intel $25.6B U.S.
63 Cisco $26.6B U.S.
64 Oracle $29.1B U.S.
65 Deloitte $29.8B U.S.
66 EY $23.2B U.K.
67 IBM $21.4B U.S.
68 PwC $23.2B U.K.
69 Dell $22.2B U.S.
70 Sony $19.8B Japan
71 Cisco $25.1B U.S.
72 Netflix $29.4B U.S.
73 SK $24.4B South Korea
74 Spectrum $24.1B U.S.
75 Alibaba $23.9B China
76 Nike $19.5B U.S.
77 Alibaba $19.2B China
78 Walmart $19.7B U.S.
79 Huawei $32.9B China
80 Target $28.3B U.S.
81 Costco $22.8B U.S.
82 CVS $26.2B U.S.
83 Mastercard $21.4B U.S.
84 JD.com $27.2B China
85 Siemens $22.4B Germany
86 GE $19.7B U.S.
87 Tata $23.9B India
88 Shell $24.3B U.K.
89 Fedex $26.0B U.S.
90 Gillette $25.2B U.S.
91 Pepsi $24.4B U.S.
92 Nestlé $28.7B Switzerland
93 Coca-Cola $42.9B U.S.
94 Mastercard $27.4B U.S.
95 Ping An $54.4B China
96 Agricultural Bank of China $62.0B China
97 Bank of China $49.6B China
98 China Construction Bank $65.5B China
99 ICBC $75.1B China
100 Allianz $45.2B Germany

More than 50% of the U.S. population has an iPhone.

Source: Statista

Despite a challenging year filled with supply chain issues and labor shortages, Amazon's brand value grew by 38% since last year's ranking.

Over the past year, TikTok has tripled in brand value, making it the fastest-growing brand on the list.



VISUAL CAPITALIST

/visualcapitalist @visualcap visualcapitalist.com

COLLABORATORS RESEARCH + WRITING Carmen Ang | ART DIRECTION + DESIGN Pernia Jamshed + Amy Realey

SOURCE Brand Finance

War, stats, middle east: starting to get the syria thing more. read later

Rojava is a major theater in the war against the Islamic State in Syria. During the Syrian Civil war, Kurdish forces led by the People's Protection Units (YPG) took control of Northern Syria and launched campaigns to take control of the Islamist-controlled areas. The Syrian Democratic Forces went on to take substantial territory from the Islamic State and played a major role in the liberation of Raqqa and the battle for Deir Ezzor, ending Islamic State rule in Syria.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manbij_offensive

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Combined_Joint_Task_Force_%E2%80%93_Operation_Inherent_Resolve

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/War_against_the_Islamic_State#Establishment_of_Combined_Joint_Task_Force_%E2%80%93_Operation_Inherent_Resolve_(CJTF-OIR)_in_October_2014

Turkish involvement in the Syrian civil war

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Turkish_involvement_in_the_Syrian_civil_war

war, sanctions, middle east, energy: dec2 (2013) al-Hasakah accounts for half of all Syrian oil production (370000bpd)

https://www.al-monitor.com/originals/2013/02/syria-oil-crisis.html#ixzz7mLFcXO28

The Rmeilan, Suwayda and Karatchok oil fields are all part of al-Hasakah province. Thousands of workers, mostly non-natives of the region, work in these fields. The province is home to a training and qualifying center for technical workers, an oil and gas institute and a vocational high school for oil.

Read more: https://www.al-monitor.com/originals/2013/02/syria-oil-crisis.html#ixzz7mLGCxBHG

Energy, war, sanctions, stats: Dec2first time since February that gas prices cost less than

$3.50 per gallon, below the $3.54 average on Feb. 24, 2022

https://www.axios.com/2022/12/01/gas-prices-aaa-russia-ukraine

Erdogan, war, middle east: U.S. Senate committee approves Turkey sanctions bill, DECEMBER 11, 2019

https://www.reuters.com/article/us-turkey-usa-sanctions/u-s-senate-committee-approves-turkey-sanctions-bill-idUSKBN1YF24P

dec2 Turkey's fourth ground incursion into Northern Syria since 2016

he threatens Turkey's fourth ground incursion into Northern Syria since 2016 – a threat he has made without follow through since May 2022. The U.S. force presence in Northeastern Syria has historically forced Turkey's hand to tread lightly along the border. However, just last week, a Turkish airstrike landed within 300 meters of American positions, north of Hasakah. Luckily, no American troops were present at the time.

Censorship, government: Walker County man convicted of voter fraud, sentenced to 25 years, DA says

WALKER COUNTY, Ga. — A 62-year-old Walker County man is facing 25 years in prison after being convicted of voter fraud, according to District Attorney Chris Arnt.

The DA says William Chase filled out another Walker County resident's absentee ballot in the January 2021 runoff election after it was sent ton a PO box at an old address by mistake.

When the husband of the original owner of the ballot got his and she did not, the DA says she called the Walker County Elections Office to inquire about it.

The Elections Office found out that it has already been accepted, but not yet counted, and that it appeared to have her signature, the DA says.

The resident went to the Elections Office and pointed out that it was not her signature.

The DA says the Elections Office cancelled the forged ballot and had a new ballot sent to the resident’s current address.

The Elections Office then requested the Secretary of State Office investigate the forged ballot.

The DA says they learned that Chase was the current owner of the PO box, but he had already submitted a ballot for the election.

The DA says they matched fingerprints on the forged ballot with Chase's.

The DA says Chase is convicted of forgery in the first degree, illegal acts regarding election documents, unlawful acts regarding elector's vote, and repeat voting in same election.

Chase is sentenced to 25 years, with the first 15 years to be served in the Georgia Department of Corrections without the possibility of parole, the DA says.

The DA says Chase is no stranger to fraud and forgery as he has several felony convictions including: bankruptcy fraud, theft by shoplifting, forgery in the first degree, stealing public documents, and financial identity fraud.

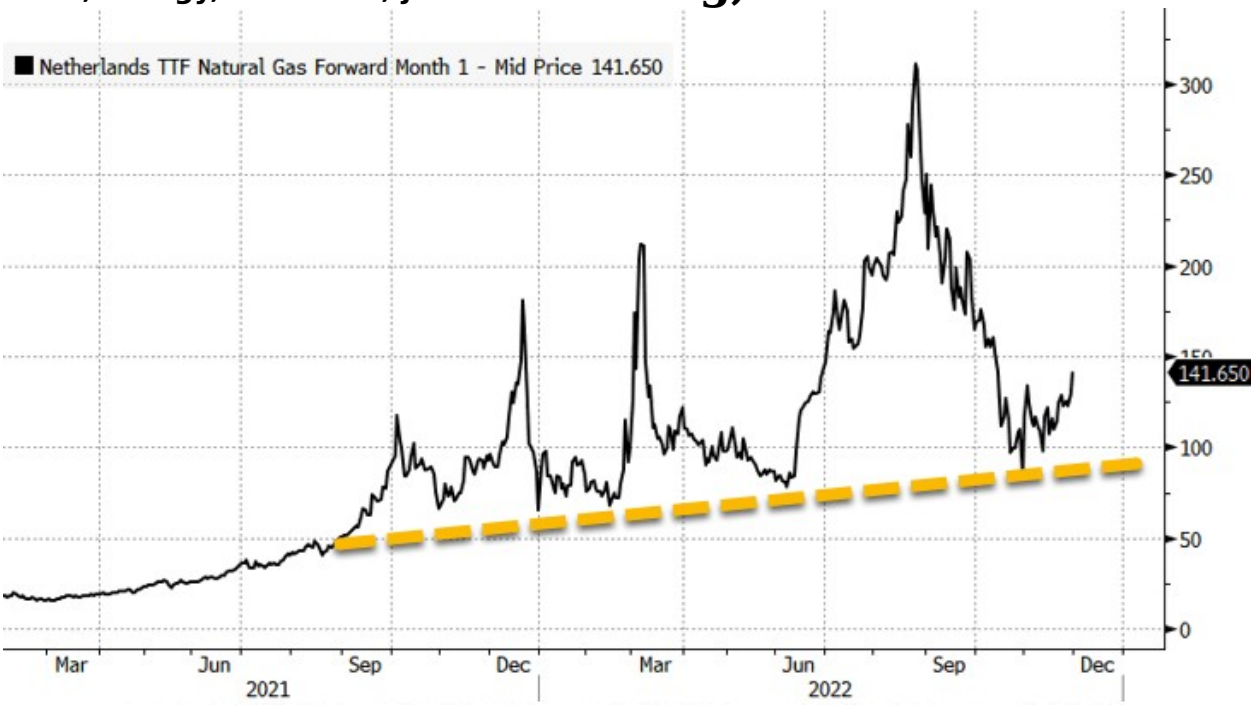
https://newschannel9.com/news/local/walker-county-man-convicted-of-voter-fraud-sentenced-to-25-years-da-says

middle east, government, sanctions, war: dec1 **India and Pakistan joined the SCO on 9 June 2017, a Eurasian political, economic and security organization**

covering approximately 60% of the area of Eurasia, 40% of the world population, and more than 30% of global GDP
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shanghai_Cooperation_Organisation

stats, energy: dec1 read later: how electric motors work

stats, energy, sanctions, journal: dec1 long, lol



Censorship, government, vaccine: dec1
how law firms work; i've seen it personally with drug dealers, where the dealer literally had his "laywer on speedial", or in this case, was facebook friends and constantly called and personally messaged the guy. he was like one of his close friends. same for mr. **, a powerful lawyer in **** witha 5 million dollar home. he finds information out about witnesses and police, information that nobody should be able to fgind, then uses it against them to bring thier**

credibility into question. if they lie, theyre gone from the equation

“Finally, a word must be said about the role of lawyers in this fifty-year history of deceiving smokers, potential smokers, and the American public about the hazards of smoking and second hand smoke, and the addictiveness of nicotine. At every stage, lawyers played an absolutely central role in the creation and perpetuation of the Enterprise and the implementation of its fraudulent schemes. They devised and coordinated both national and international strategy; they directed scientists as to what research they should and should not undertake; they vetted scientific research papers and reports as well as public relations materials to ensure that the interests of the Enterprise would be protected; they identified ‘friendly’ scientific witnesses, subsidized them with grants from the Center for Tobacco Research and the Center for Indoor Air Research, paid them enormous fees, and often hid the relationship between those witnesses and the industry; and they devised and carried out document destruction policies and took shelter behind baseless assertions of the attorney client privilege.”

Stats, energy, Middle east, war, sanctions, Erdogan, iran: dec1 **45% of Iraq's electricity is generated by natural gas imported from Iran**

https://english.news.cn/20221201/c8106866d8a24b17bc61a08ff8d80062/c.html

media, government: dec1 Soldier charged with stealing machine gun parts, grenade
https://www.militarytimes.com/news/your-army/2022/11/29/soldier-charged-with-stealing-machine-gun-parts-grenade-launcher/

war, history, Russia, stats: dec1 ukrainian holocaust, 1932-1933
https://web.archive.org/web/20170909103902/http://www.ukemonde.com/genocide/margolisholocaust.html

Erdogan, middle east: dec1 **boycott-turkey.net, read more**

Censorship: dec1 "Freedom of expression in Saudi Arabia has, much beyond having the freedom to express what one thinks, regressed to the extent of having to say what one does not believe. In other words, you cannot say what you think. Nothing will happen to you anywhere else, but here, you will be forced to say what you do not believe. You have to speak against Qatar and approve the legitimacy of the blockade. Despite all the violations of human rights in Yemen, you have to praise the coalition's operations there. If you keep silent, then you are the enemy."

yenisafakdotcom/en/columns/yasin-aktay/saudis-embargo-on-turkish-goods-backfires-as-muslims-boycott-french-products-2047647

markets, stats, government: Top Citi Exec Marvels That An Entire Generation Of Bankers Only Knows Cheap Money

BY TYLER DURDEN
THURSDAY, DEC 01, 2022 - 06:45 AM

A top Citigroup banker said it was “fascinating” that some of the Wall Street firm’s "rising stars" had spent their whole careers in an era of cheap money.

According to Bloomberg, Alison Harding-Jones, vice chair of corporate and investment and head of M&A in EMEA at Citigroup, said **rising rates were helping create an environment where more junior bankers "will learn a lot."**

“It is absolutely fascinating to me that I have people who come to me who are starting to think about being made a managing director in an investment bank who started in this business in 2010 or 2011, and so they’ve never really seen an environment where money hasn’t essentially been free or very, very cheap,” Harding-Jones said at the Financial Times Global Banking Summit on Tuesday.

“We’ve seen this pandemic, which has inflated this bubble, which has driven this incredible amount of activity, and they’ve kind of thought ‘Well, that’s normal,’” she said.

“That clearly isn’t normal and I think all the old heads on this call and all of my old-headed colleagues, we are looking at this and thinking this is going to be an environment where you will learn a lot.”

As Bloomberg notes, her comments were echoed by Clare Woodman, Morgan Stanley’s head of Europe, the Middle East and Africa, who told the conference that banks were faced with an outlook that hadn’t been seen “in the last half a century.”

Government, Africa: dec1 **(I HAVE TO SAVE THE COMMENTS; i HAVE TO..)Re: it's caused the rand to COLLAPSE intraday!!! IVE NEVR LAUGHED SO HARD IN MY LIFE.....'FARMGATE'!!!!ASHAHAHAHA**

AND THAT PICTURE……OHOHOAHAHAHAHAH OHOHOAHHAHAHA!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

NoDebt
15 minutes ago

A corrupt, black, African politician. There's something you don't see every day.

play_arrow11play_arrow

A shaped recovery
PREMIUM
13 minutes ago

where do you find cushions that big these days?

play_arrow2play_arrow

S.Parker
1 minute ago

When did the fake sign language guy become the president?

play_arrowplay_arrow

spiff
11 minutes ago

Not unless you live in Africa.

play_arrowplay_arrow

mojo_jojo
18 minutes ago

$580K.

Chimp change.

play_arrow8play_arrow

Aspergers or Sociopath
11 minutes ago

Should have had his son smoke some crack and then handle the cash. Amateur.

play_arrow3play_arrow

gatorengineer
7 minutes ago

or had a good druish bitcoin launderer.

play_arrowplay_arrow

ponyboy99
10 minutes ago

When the Dutch settled SA it was a vast and arid place with just a handful of natives living there. 99.9% of the Africans living there now are immigrants from other countries. Finding a native SA in Capetown would be like finding a Iroquois in Martha's Vineyard. As usual, history has been perverted and twisted to fit the narrative against anyone productive and hard working. F em

play_arrow7play_arrow

rete
13 minutes ago

> *Ramaphosa, who has advanced himself as an 'anti-corruption' and reformist president, has vehemently denied wrongdoing in the scandal coming to be known as* ***"Farmgate"***

Sounds a bit like this

> *Zelensky, who has advanced himself as an 'anti-corruption' and reformist president, has vehemently denied wrongdoing in the scandal coming to be known as* ***"Pandora Papers"****,*

play_arrow6play_arrow

Grumpy Old Objectivist
7 minutes ago

It may not be Wakanda Forever, but it sure as **** is Wakanda Again

play_arrow5play_arrow

Sam Adam's Ghost
5 minutes ago

Great moniker!

play_arrowplay_arrow

Krink26
10 minutes ago

Blame whitey

play_arrow5play_arrow

Z Freedom
18 minutes ago

Another corrupt politician…Imagine my surprise.

play_arrow5play_arrow

you_are_cleared_hot
10 minutes ago

Nancy Pelosi: "crumbs..."

play_arrow3play_arrow

August
4 minutes ago

Africans can be very entertaining in their child-like simplicity.

Too bad they are also gifted with the ultra-violence gene.

play_arrow1play_arrow

The_Way

5 minutes ago

Check the sofa's at the white house. Biden must have billions of $ stuffed everywhere after all the loot he has stolen.

play_arrow4play_arrow

..
4 minutes ago
(Edited)

.

play_arrow1play_arrow

ThomasJefferson69
15 minutes ago

I can't stuff money in my own sofa? What's the world coming to, it's just so racist.

play_arrow4play_arrow

Cautiously Pessimistic
6 minutes ago

He just got lucky in the markets like the Pelosi's and the Clinton's.

play_arrow3play_arrow

Sam Adam's Ghost
4 minutes ago

African Buffalo futures.

play_arrow1play_arrow

fxrxexexdxoxmx3
PREMIUM
7 minutes ago

He spent years working hard for the people and saved some cash.

What's the problem?

Sounds like a Pelosi or a McConnell.

play_arrow3play_arrow

Sam Adam's Ghost
13 minutes ago

BLM should fly over to protest!

play_arrow4play_arrow

NoDebt
13 minutes ago

> *The timing of the crisis couldn't be worse given long-awaited economic reforms had only just begun to take shape and improve the country's outlook.*

Context? Is this the "reform" where the government just takes land from white farmers and gives it to their cronies while calling it "justice"?

play_arrow3play_arrow

Im Back
11 minutes ago

Joggers gotta jog, no matter where they are!

play_arrow2play_arrow

gatorengineer
14 minutes ago

No Doubt emboldened by Wakanda Forever.

play_arrow2play_arrow

HRH of Aquitaine 2.0
17 minutes ago

They don't sell safes in SA?

play_arrow2play_arrow

gatorengineer
13 minutes ago

the combinations have numbers on them and we all know maff is rayczist

play_arrow3play_arrow

Joe Davola
12 minutes ago

And no crack head kids to hodl it for them?

play_arrowplay_arrow

3.7.77
18 minutes ago

and all i've ever found is loose change in a couch...

play_arrow2play_arrow

Joe Davola
18 minutes ago

$580,000, that's all - c'mon man!

play_arrow2play_arrow

Argenta
36 seconds ago

South Africa slouches toward Liberia...

play_arrow1play_arrow

maniac_nv
2 minutes ago

But muh Africa is a black utopia where everyone is honest and at peace!!!

play_arrow1play_arrow

tested-positive
3 minutes ago

When THEY attain power, no matter where all over the world, the result is the same.

THIS result.

NO exceptions.

None.

play_arrow1play_arrow

Yancey Ward
3 minutes ago

Hey, the money was in that sofa when he bought it.

play_arrow1play_arrow

Leewardhedge
5 minutes ago

Let the man enjoy his retirement in Zurich

play_arrow1play_arrow

Ms. Yulia Boiko
5 minutes ago

Assassinate Putin 2023

play_arrow1play_arrow1

Goody Two Shoes
58 seconds ago

That is a dumb plan. If you think that would make things better for you, you are a dumb person.

play_arrowplay_arrow

Sam Adam's Ghost
6 minutes ago

Name one country in Africa as prosperous as America. Why is that?

play_arrow1play_arrow

Resident Creeper
8 minutes ago
(Edited)

$4m dollar theft.

$580k found in a sofa.

Seems this guy might have gone to the Joe Biden School of 10%. and improved it.

play_arrow1play_arrow

tested-positive
1 minute ago
(Edited)

"I swear I didn't know about that money.

I purchased that used sofa from a traveling furniture show that passed through here 9 months ago."

play_arrowplay_arrow

dwhit
2 minutes ago

This is a new thing. This has never happened before. Finding big chunks of CASH stuffed in sofas, mattresses, freezers by politicians. The big reset is coming.

play_arrowplay_arrow

jimfcarroll
9 minutes ago

$580K? Wow. African politicians come cheap.

play_arrowplay_arrow

rete
9 minutes ago

remove
link

There's a penny underneath that couch

~Peter Griffin

If the sofa was stuffed with US dollars, the sofa would become bigger because of inflation.

Show original message

it's caused the rand to COLLAPSE intraday!!! IVE NEVR LAUGHED SO HARD IN MY LIFE.....'FARMGATE'!!!!ASHAHAHAHA AND THAT PICTURE.....OHOHOAHAHAHAHAH OHOHOAHHAHAHA!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

South Africa President Ramaphosa's Resignation Believed Imminent Over 'Farmgate' Scandal

BY TYLER DURDEN
THURSDAY, DEC 01, 2022 - 10:25 AM

South Africa is facing deep political turmoil and corresponding uncertainty across markets amid growing calls for President Cyril Ramaphosa to step down over an emerging bizarre scandal centered on the **alleged theft of $580,000**. The over half million in cash was literally found stuffed in a sofa at a farm that Ramaphosa owns. The timing of the crisis couldn't be worse given long-awaited economic reforms had only just begun to take shape and improve the country's outlook.

The mysterious cash payment has sparked outrage particularly among the opponents of the ruling African National Congress, and with his allies holding emergency consultations. On Thursday South African media is reporting President Ramaphosa is to imminently address the nation as **prospect for his resignation grows**, and as he faces impeachment.

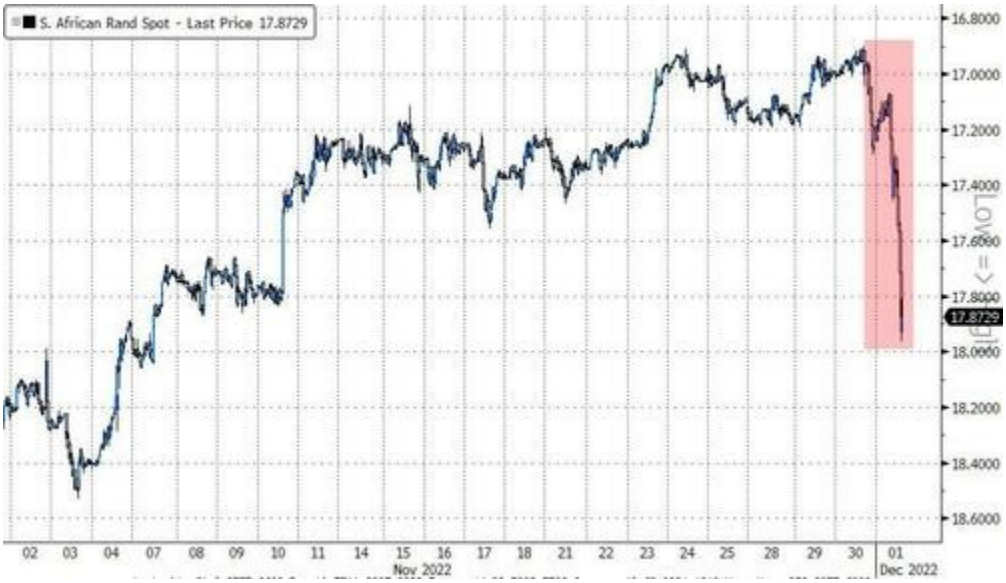
Ramaphosa, who has advanced himself as an 'anti-corruption' and reformist president, has vehemently denied wrongdoing in the scandal coming to be known as **"Farmgate"**, centered on a game farm he owns in South Africa's northeast.

According to a summary of the scandal in CNBC:

*In what has become known as the "Farmgate" scandal, Ramaphosa is alleged to have **covered up a $4 million theft from his Phala Phala farm in the north east of the country in 2020. Some $580,000 of this was found beneath sofa cushions**, and allegation**s also include working with Namibian authorities to apprehend, torture and bribe the suspects**.*

*Ramaphosa staunchly denies the allegations and has not been charged with any crimes. **He maintains that the cash was the proceeds from the sale of buffalo**. He has confirmed that the robbery took place, but insists that the amount stolen was smaller than alleged and denies participating in a cover-up.*

The rand has **weakened more than 3% against the dollar** as the country is on edge awaiting Ramaphosa's and the ANC's next move. The economic reforms he set in motion are now seen as under threat by the major scandal, also as political succession within the ANC would remain uncertain.



According to more on the jitters unleashed across South African markets on news of Ramaphosa's likely impending resignation, via *Bloomberg*:

- The yield on 10-year local-currency bonds climbs 74 basis points to 11.55%, the most in a day since December 2015
- Benchmark dollar bonds lead losses among EM peers; 10-year yield up 48bps to 7.42%
- Dollar-rand one-week imlied volatility surges to the highest since May 2022 at 20.4%
- 5-year CDS +12.5% to 274.62 bps, biggest jump since March 2021

developing...

Erdogan, middle east, war: dec1
turkish failed overthrow attempt, 2016, gulan movemment

On 15 July 2016, a faction within the Turkish Armed Forces, organized as the Peace at Home Council,[32] attempted a coup d'état against state institutions, including the government and President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan.[33] They attempted to seize control of several places in Ankara, Istanbul, Marmaris and elsewhere, such as the Asian side entrance of the Bosphorus Bridge, but failed to do so after forces loyal to the state defeated them. The Council cited an erosion of secularism, elimination of democratic rule,[34] disregard for human rights, and Turkey's loss of credibility in the international arena as reasons for the coup.[35][36] The government[37][38] said the coup leaders were linked to the Gülen movement,[34][39] which is designated as a terrorist organization by the Republic of Turkey and led by Fethullah Gülen, a Turkish businessman[40][41][42][43] and scholar[44][45][46] who lives in Pennsylvania.[47] The Turkish government alleged that Gülen was behind the coup (which Gülen denied) and that the United States was harboring him.[48][49][50] Events surrounding the coup attempt and the purges in its aftermath reflect a complex power struggle between Islamist elites in Turkey.[51][52]

https://www.npr.org/sections/parallels/2017/07/11/536011222/cleric-accused-of-plotting-turkish-coup-attempt-i-have-stood-against-all-coups
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fethullah_G%C3%BClen
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2016_Turkish_coup_d%27%C3%A9tat_attempt

middle east, energy, war, sanctions: nov30 vcvcvc

The violence created one of the largest mixed-migration flows ever dealt with, reaching almost 800,000
migrants crossing the borders to flee violence, with some 263,000 reaching Egypt and 345,000 to Tunisia
Over 120 nationalities, and 5 separate categories of displaced persons could be identified: migrant workers,
Libyan nationals, “boat-people” heading towards the European Union, internally displaced persons, and
asylum-seekers and refugees who had previously been residing in Libya;7
4. Both of the countries to which Libyans and migrants were fleeing were in the midst of their own revolutions,
which could have had a disastrous impact on their respect for the legal principle of non-refoulement, had

these 2 countries not kept their borders open. Yet, it did not. Both the Tunisian and Egyptian borders
remained open;
5. Relations between the United Nations and the pre-revolutionary government with regard to the existing
8,000 refugees and over 3,000 asylum-seekers had been fragile and access had not been guaranteed to all;
6. Some 2.5 million migrant workers were estimated to be living in Libya prior to the uprising. Many of the
Sub-Saharans among them came to be viewed with extreme suspicion due to assumed connections with
the previous regime, and faced particular aggression, abuse, and discrimination during the conflict;
7. The attempts by some Libyans (and Tunisians) to seek safety from the violence at home by crossing the
Mediterranean sea triggered fears among European politicians and populations of arrivals in “Biblical”
proportions that would “flood” their shores. This spurred on a flurry of legislative activity and patrolling of
the waters to manage arrivals.

Qatari Official Casually Admits 'Between 400 & 500' Worker Deaths For World Cup Construction

BY TYLER DURDEN
WEDNESDAY, NOV 30, 2022 - 06:00 AM

Authored by Brett Wilkins via Common Dreams,

An Amnesty International campaigner on Tuesday led calls for "truth, justice, and compensation" after Qatar's World Cup chief **admitted that hundreds of migrant workers died during the construction of projects related to the FIFA tournament**.

In an interview with British journalist Piers Morgan aired on *TalkTV*, Hassan Al-Thawadi, secretary general of the Qatar World Cup Supreme Committee, was asked how many migrant workers—who make up 90% of the nation's workforce—have died during the construction of $300 billion worth of tournament-related infrastructure including stadiums, hotels, highways, railways, and an expanded international airport. **"The estimate is around 400, between 400 and 500,"** Al-Thawadi replied. "I don't have the exact number, that's something that's been discussed. One death is too many, it's as simple as that."

Responding to Al-Thawadi's remarks, Steve Cockburn, Amnesty International's head of economic and social justice, said that "the continued debate around the

number of workers who have died in the preparation of the World Cup exposes the stark reality that so many bereaved families are still waiting for truth and justice."

"Over the last decade, thousands of workers have returned home in coffins, with no explanation given to their loved ones," he noted. An analysis by *The Guardian* found that more than 6,500 workers from India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal, and Sri Lanka died in Qatar since the repressive Gulf monarchy was awarded soccer's premier international tournament in late 2010. ***The Guardian*'s estimate, however, has been criticized for counting all foreign worker deaths in the country over the past decade**.

"Qatar's **extreme heat and grueling working conditions** are likely to have contributed to hundreds of these deaths, but without full investigations, the true scale of lives lost can never be known," Cockburn continued. "Meanwhile, families are suffering the added anguish of severe financial insecurity that comes from losing the main wage earner."

"There is nothing natural about this scale of loss and there can be no excuse for denying families truth, justice, and compensation any longer," he added. "Until all abuses suffered by migrant workers in Qatar are remedied, the legacy of this World Cup will be severely tarnished by their mistreatment."

Al-Thawadi asserted that conditions are improving for migrant workers in Qatar, noting the implementation of a 1,000 riyal, or about $275, minimum monthly wage and increased attention to safety. "I think every year the health and safety standards on the sites are improving, at least on our sites, the World Cup sites, the ones that we're responsible for, most definitely," he said.

A spokesperson for Qatar's Supreme Committee for Delivery and Legacy **appeared to backpedal Al-Thawadi's remarks in a Tuesday statement** reiterating the Qatari government's **claim of just three work-related and 37 non-work-related migrant worker deaths** during the World Cup construction period.

"Separate quotes regarding figures refer to national statistics covering the period of 2014-2020 for all work-related fatalities (414) nationwide in Qatar, covering all sectors and nationalities," the agency said.

Hari, a 27-year-old Nepalese builder who earned 700 riyals a month in a country where the average Qatari household makes more than 100 times more, described working conditions to *CNN* earlier this month:

It was too hot. The foreman was very demanding and used to complain a lot. The foreman used to threaten to reduce our salaries and overtime pay. I had to carry tiles on my shoulder to the top. It was very difficult going up through the scaffolding. In the pipeline work, there were 5-7 meters deep pits, we had to lay the stones and concrete, it was difficult due to the heat. **It was difficult to breathe. We had to come upstairs using a ladder to drink water. At**

some places, they didn't have water. Some places, they didn't provide us water on time. At some places, we used to go to houses nearby asking for water.

It never happened to me, but I saw some workers fainting at work. I saw one Bengali, one Nepali... two to three people faint while working. They took the Bengali to medical services. I'm not sure what happened to him.

A 2019 study of 1,300 Nepali migrant worker deaths in Qatar published in *Cardiology Journal* found a "strong correlation" between toiling in extreme heat and dying from heart problems.

f anyone says white people were bad because of slavery, kindly point out that not only did the middle eastern nations start this sh*t, they continue to do uphold slavery to this very day.

play_arrow66play_arrow

Baghdad_Bob
5 hours ago

Madeleine Albright: Yes, 500,000 dead Iraqi children were worth it.

play_arrow33play_arrow3

2+2 ≠ 5
5 hours ago

A few thousand dead indentured slaves are worth it for sportsball! Yay!!

play_arrow19play_arrow

arrowdent
2 hours ago

'Between 400 & 500' Worker Deaths For World Cup Construction

That's how many Palestinians

Apartheid Israhell kills in a given month.

play_arrow4play_arrow3

Ayn Stein
1 hour ago

The Big Game is the Event of the Year! Anyone who doesn't love The Big Game is unmutual and should be unpersoned and memoryholed!

play_arrowplay_arrow1

AtATrESICI
4 hours ago

500,000 dead kids, totally worth it.

play_arrow7play_arrow3

ThomasJefferson69
3 hours ago
(Edited)

You are a joke. You may as well claim 500 million dead children, it's just as believable.

However it has been documented that Islam has murdered some 590 million people over 1400 years.

play_arrow4play_arrow5

cyberchicken
2 hours ago

Whataboutism. A tactic employed by the Chinese communist party.

play_arrowplay_arrow3

PrinceMyshkin
2 hours ago

Hey moron, that was a direct citation from Madeline Albright, she said word for word, that the sanctions who caused the death of 500.000 children in Iraq were worth it f.ckwit.

play_arrow1play_arrow1

ThomasJefferson69
2 hours ago

Yea and she rode a unicorn to work every day.

play_arrow1play_arrow1

Leonine
1 hour ago

you are quite the prideful troll

play_arrow1play_arrow2

ThomasJefferson69
6 minutes ago

You would believe anything posted from the MSM.

play_arrowplay_arrow

Mile0
5 hours ago

Also, ashanti tribe.

play_arrow4play_arrow2

Lord RG
5 hours ago

Admits 400-500 deaths

so multiply that by factor x10 and once again cospiratory theorist who said cca 4000ppl died were right

about racism: they say india people are more racist, even asian are racist but only white cant be racist cause if white is racist he will be punished

Btw: im not racist, i dont like anybody thats my advantage :D

play_arrow4play_arrow2

2+2 ≠ 5
5 hours ago

Double or triple that figure to get cloer to the truth.

play_arrow4play_arrow1

t_kAyk
5 hours ago
(Edited)

I'll give the middle eastern chappies this: they looked at all the migrants and said "ya know, we have all the labor we will ever need right here and all they want is a meal card and an iPhone."

You may get away with that **** in the too nice white people countries but over in durka durka stan we still cut your head off boy.

play_arrow4play_arrow

Leonine
1 hour ago

durka durka!

play_arrow3play_arrow

sundalmurugan
3 hours ago

with whose help you jackass?

play_arrowplay_arrow

Show More Replies

tahoebumsmith
5 hours ago

So thousands of people die and are paid slave labor $275 a month so the woketards can kick their ball around and get cheered on by a stadium full of Woketards? Pathetic.

play_arrow37play_arrow

rogerwaters69
3 hours ago

Well said, sir

play_arrow5play_arrow

Joe Davola
2 hours ago
(Edited)

Human nature doesn't change:

The Gladiator Colosseum - built by Jewish slaves, funded by loot from their Jerusalem Temple

How long did the Roman Empire hold sway before falling?

Since everything is time compressed these days, we are well past the Colosseum construction point on the downslope

play_arrow1play_arrow1

RebBiker
1 hour ago

Since muslims consider other muslims expendable, I guess they consider everyone else expendable, too.

play_arrow2play_arrow

Rabbi Zero
5 hours ago
(Edited)

Just write covid on the death certificate like the US does.

play_arrow32play_arrow1

Almachius
5 hours ago
(Edited)

Appoint Fauci as Superintendent over the whole construction operation, and all corpses would be swept under the rug.

play_arrow5play_arrow1

Castor gordo el tercero
5 hours ago
(Edited)

Who in the world would willingly go to a Muslim middle eastern country to work as a guest worker in construction? Answer is no one... These are slaves... But the US and europe don't have any concern about that... Only about gay rights...

play_arrow26play_arrow

John Evergreen
4 hours ago

As a US government contractor? $100k+, with no US income tax. Back in the day that was a lot of money.

play_arrow2play_arrow1

bentaxle
3 hours ago

They make sure to get workers from countries that won't invade them. If they need US workers the Qataris soon back off. You will be allowed to keep your passport. They will honour your contract. They will try it on. If you complain they will back down.

play_arrow1play_arrow

sukittrebek
5 hours ago

Whats with the vagina shaped stadium.

play_arrow19play_arrow

BarryMcCockiner
5 hours ago

Reminds them of their pet goats

play_arrow13play_arrow

Dog Serious
5 hours ago

They said they wanted to build a stadium in respect of those with Angina, but got lost in the translation!

play_arrow8play_arrow

Rusticus
5 hours ago

It's none like I've ever seen, but then I've always been picky.

play_arrow3play_arrow

The Fool On The Hill
5 hours ago
(Edited)

Yeah, that's what I thought. Supposed to be a lotus, or sumpin, I guess.

PS. Just gaggled it. Supposed to represent a dhow fishing boat. Beats me.

play_arrow1play_arrow

Von Hayek
5 hours ago

Dunno.

Pass me a Duff Beer.

play_arrow5play_arrow

MCDirtMigger
2 hours ago

You’re not at all curious about the one shaped like a sphincter?

play_arrowplay_arrow

Show More Replies

css1971
PREMIUM
5 hours ago

"The estimate is around 400, between 400 and 500," *Al-Thawadi replied*

The translation from Arabic: We don't know so we'll just make some **** up.

play_arrow14play_arrow

The Fool On The Hill
5 hours ago

The translation from Arabic: We don't know AND WE DON'T CARE, so we'll just make some **** up.

play_arrow11play_arrow

Kat
PRO
3 hours ago

The West has adopted this same tactic after forcing its slaves...er...citizens to take a "vaccine".

play_arrow4play_arrow

HankLove
PREMIUM
5 hours ago
(Edited)

Piers Morgan now complicit of the understatement

play_arrow1play_arrow2

Blano
4 hours ago

When the J6 political prisoners are finally released in the US, and America becomes less of a banana republic, then I might start to care about other people.

Until then, don't care.

play_arrow8play_arrow

SpotemGottem Gekko Jr
5 hours ago
(Edited)

Soccer should be banned is it so boring. There are a handful of marquee players in the entire world, and the rest is just guys passing the ball around for hours (99.9% of the time) .

They literally could have picnics of fans in the middle of the field and it wouldn't change most matches. Just also place several BBQ grills at various points and the bloody ball would not hit them.

play_arrow8play_arrow8

Rusticus
5 hours ago

There's really no need to ban it; the smart people who find it boring choose not to watch it.

play_arrow4play_arrow3

SpotemGottem Gekko Jr
5 hours ago

This is correct. I am just butt hurt about the whole matter.

play_arrow4play_arrow1

John Evergreen
4 hours ago

There are a lot of smart people who still watch it because they are gay.

play_arrow2play_arrow3

Gregorius Swizzlepants
5 hours ago

But then Canadians wouldn’t get to cheer for our “Canadian” national team, which is almost entirely made up of immigrants.

Nothing says Canada like cheering for our soccer stars, such as Ismaël Konè and Ikè Ugbo!

play_arrow6play_arrow

Leotardo
3 hours ago
(Edited)

That has already been going on in baseball for decades, Jr. Just leave football alone, willya?

play_arrowplay_arrow2

dojufitz
5 hours ago

Says all of them were named

Muhammad.

play_arrow7play_arrow1

takewhatyoucan64
5 hours ago

LMAO.....no loss at all

play_arrow2play_arrow1

takewhatyoucan64
5 hours ago

moslems are gonna moslem

play_arrow7play_arrow1

Mockingbird101
PREMIUM
2 hours ago

A lot of truth to this story. My brother-in-law was contracted to work 3 weeks with a construction company in Qatar to teach the workers how to build floors in warehouses. He said it's the most ****** up place he had ever seen. No engineer could make a decision on anything because of the fear of being deported without pay. You piss off the owner of the company they call the police and deport you.

No telling how many died.

play_arrow6play_arrow

koan
2 hours ago

Slavery never stopped in the ME, surprised how few know this.

play_arrow6play_arrow

tested-positive
3 hours ago

No Flash and Grab mobs in Qatar.

No rioting, looting and pillaging.

No Gay Parades or Trannie Rights.

No mass shootings.

Little crime of any kind.

How come?

play_arrow6play_arrow1

Krink26
3 hours ago

It was well worth it so woke assholes can watch kickball and lecture others about human rights.

play_arrow6play_arrow1

Castor gordo el tercero
5 hours ago

It was so many that he felt he couldn't get away with admitting to anything less than 4 or 500 hundred? There must have been 1500 or more...

play_arrow6play_arrow

Castor gordo el tercero
5 hours ago

They paid for a lot of it with black market organs i bet. The world is run by a level of evil we have not seen before...

play_arrow6play_arrow

goldhoarder
4 hours ago

Chinese "quarantine" camps

play_arrow2play_arrow

McGantic
5 hours ago

That shows how far behind the culture and conditions in Qatar are compared to other nations.

For example, a grand total of zero people died during construction for the 2020 Olympics in Tokyo.

Always imagined Qatar as being more of an advanced nation, but those are African nation numbers.

play_arrow6play_arrow

GatorMcClusky
5 hours ago

The estimate is around 400, between 400 and 500," Al-Thawadi replied. "I don't have the exact number, that's something that's been discussed. One death is too many, it's as simple as that."

Dude needs someone to write for him like they do for Biden.

play_arrow6play_arrow

American Citizen
5 hours ago

Based on the quote I thought the guy already wrote for Biden.

play_arrow4play_arrow

buzzsaw99

3 hours ago

a vaxxxed reporter at the competition went down like a sack of dirt. they cut off the video right before his face hit the ground.

play_arrow5play_arrow2

MANvsMACHINE
2 hours ago

You sure it wasn’t Kamala? Going down like a sack of dirt is her specialty.

play_arrowplay_arrow

YesWeKahn
5 hours ago

How many dead to construct north American rail roads?

play_arrow5play_arrow2

Totally_Disillusioned
1 hour ago

And when the world cup was televised in China the CCP blurred all images of the spectators in the stadium so that Chinese viewers would not see maskless people. CCP controls streaming feeds via their intrrnet.

play_arrow4play_arrow

ParanoidSquirrel
1 hour ago

Those middle east nations bring in a lot of workers from places like India and treat them terribly. It's a "caste" system where the local host country Arabs look down on all the imported workers. The workers go into debt to get the money to get there for work thinking it is their ticket our of poverty. Once there, their passports get taken, the get put in horrible living conditions and forced to work in terrible conditions. Just a step up from slaves...they truly have a hard life...

play_arrow4play_arrow

Ahmeexnal
1 hour ago

AT LEAST THEY ARE NOT FORCED TO WEAR FACEMASKS.

play_arrowplay_arrow1

StopGaslightingMe
2 hours ago

Look to them we are "useless eaters" unless they have a project they need to complete then we are simply useless eater "tools" they use to get the job done. If some of the tools break they will be replaced by other tools and the old broken tools tossed in the garbage.

play_arrow4play_arrow

emcee
3 hours ago

Klaus would be proud.

play_arrow4play_arrow

OutWithLibs
3 hours ago

In the US the majority of “migrants” aren’t workers, they are *asylum seekers* who get free cell phones, taxpayer money, free housing and in some idiot sanctuary states, the right to vote.

play_arrow4play_arrow

Multi
4 hours ago

With the ferocious needle running amok, you cannot make much sense of death statistics.

Then, at the end, they just throw this pearl in: "[a 2019 study] *found a 'strong correlation' between toiling in extreme heat and dying from heart problems*". Don't you say, heart problems, really?

What about how many of the deceased were "vaccinated" (wink wink)?

It is just the biggest gaslighting operation in human history.

play_arrow4play_arrow

eyewillcomply
4 hours ago

Soccer is the most boring spectator sport imaginable. What is the great allure?

play_arrow4play_arrow3

AZ Man
3 hours ago

It gives loser countries something to like about themselves.

play_arrow4play_arrow

Gefeltafudge
3 hours ago

Better than Sominex.

play_arrowplay_arrow

OutWithLibs
3 hours ago
(Edited)

Have you ever watched baseball? At least players in soccer are constantly moving

play_arrow5play_arrow5

ClimbingTheLog
4 hours ago

So **THE SICKNESS** was less dangerous than working construction?

Better **DESTROY THE ECONOMY** then!

Good job, Harvard. "Mimic the Communists" was all they could muster.

play_arrow4play_arrow

nicxios
5 hours ago

5 people died building the Empire State Building, and that was low for those days' standards. Add extreme heat to the mix. Just sayin'.

play_arrow4play_arrow1

Castor gordo el tercero
5 hours ago

96 officially died building the hoover dam... Though there were many deaths covered up...

play_arrow4play_arrow

John Evergreen
4 hours ago

Those deaths were from covid

play_arrow4play_arrow

Leonine
1 hour ago

wouldve been worse if they werent vaccinated

play_arrow1play_arrow

Obamanism666
5 hours ago
(Edited)

remove
link

May be he should blame COVID-19 for 450 deaths. Fauci would

if ex-workers keep dying say it was the clot shot given to prevent the COVID 19. Us the weapons of the DS and swamp against them

aeslong
2 hours ago
(Edited)

death due to forced "vax"

play_arrow3play_arrow1

!!!
2 hours ago
(Edited)

When working in the heat, it is essential to stay hydrated. If you dont drink enough water you dramatically increase your risk of death. Not providing workers with adequate water is murder.

play_arrow3play_arrow

dr80
PREMIUM
2 hours ago

these mutherfarkers arab muslims do not treat foreign migrant workers as human being, especially "infidels" are treated as farm animals or worse.

play_arrow3play_arrow1

dustinthewind
2 hours ago

Compare that to Pfizer gene therapy deaths.

play_arrow3play_arrow

A.Retard
2 hours ago

the money Pfizer made works great

play_arrowplay_arrow

MCDirtMigger
2 hours ago

Wait a minute. Why aren’t Muslim migrants going to Qatar for work? Why do they come to Europe?

play_arrow3play_arrow

Ahmeexnal
1 hour ago

"PEOPLE SHOULD KNOW WHEN THEY ARE CONQUERED."

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JXmCouSVSC4

play_arrowplay_arrow1

AZ Man
3 hours ago

Only American cities get boycotted by sport franchises as a result of virtue signaling.

play_arrow3play_arrow

Ahmeexnal
1 hour ago
(Edited)

IT'S THE VAXXXINES, STUPID!!!!

MILLIONS DEAD, MAIMED, AND WITH SERIOUS SIDE EFFECTS FROM THE MODERNA/PFIZER mRNA MENGELE CLOTSHOTS...BUT AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL SAYS NOTHING.

play_arrow2play_arrow

Chargly 2
21 minutes ago

Wonder why?

How about international sex worker "facilitators"? That a pretty fair and delightful industry?

Are their "clients" having to work 16 hours and pee in bottles?

Does anyone start to wonder if there will be anyone left in America after the wrath of God hits such a wickedly oblivious, selfish, and clueless bunch of azholes?

That's after abortion as well. And now this coerced homicidal suicide pact with big pharma and government to sterilize and cull humans. Because the TV told them to.

play_arrowplay_arrow

RITEPOWAH
2 hours ago

the jabbed will DIE

play_arrow2play_arrow1

MANvsMACHINE
2 hours ago

So will the unjabbed. Just a bunch of years later.

play_arrow1play_arrow1

Ahmeexnal
1 hour ago

WRONG, THE WHACKEDXXXINATED ARE NO LONGER MADE IN G-D'S IMAGE. THEIR SOUL IS DAMNED.

THE PUREBLOOD'S SOUL IS ETERNAL AND CAN KEEP ASCENDING.

play_arrowplay_arrow1

beavertails
4 hours ago

Meanwhile, over 100,000 Ukranians have died in less than a year because they keep poking the bear and they edit that bitchez speech.

play_arrow2play_arrow

Ahmeexnal
1 hour ago

OVER HALF A MILLION, BUT MANY OF THOSE ARE POLES, GERMANS, FRENCH, ROMANIANS, FINNS, AUSTRALIANS, CANADIANS, SPANIARDS, BELGIANS, BRITISH, SWEDES.....

play_arrowplay_arrow1

NoPension
4 hours ago

It was only…like…400. BFD….

play_arrow2play_arrow

Fran Flintstone
5 hours ago

Get back on that ladder and quit your crying. You sound like an American Trump voter.

play_arrow2play_arrow7

Invert This, Media Matters Monkeys
5 hours ago
(Edited)

This Troll Farm Monkey posts under several aliases :

- ElonsTwitter
- ElonTrump
- Fran flintstone
- Shaminator
- Frank Zappa Lives
- Real Ivanka
- President Hunter
- Hunters Angel
- Sponge Bob Square Pants
- NickPeeMe
- And Many More

play_arrow10play_arrow1

John Evergreen
4 hours ago

Who pays him?

play_arrow2play_arrow2

Fran Flintstone
3 hours ago

This troll farm Monkey has his head up his *** so far he found the gerbil.^^

play_arrowplay_arrow5

Invert This, Media Matters Monkeys
3 hours ago

And I still managed to find you once again, Troll****

play_arrow3play_arrow

Fran Flintstone
3 hours ago

Seeing how I seem to be living in your head you might try and charge rent. You keep better track of my screen names that keep getting banned because of free speech than I do.

play_arrowplay_arrow4

Invert This, Media Matters Monkeys
3 hours ago
(Edited)

Yesterday you used ElonsTwitter as proof you weren't banned. How soon you forget, Troll****.

Trump and conservatives in general should charge you rent. You live a die being a ******. Yet you keep coming back for more. Ask your handlers to send you to troll Teen Vogue. You won't get banned there.

play_arrow3play_arrow

Almachius
5 hours ago

Meanwhile, US and UK leaders dissuaded Zelenski from accepting a peace agreement with Russia last March, promising instead to fund and supply the war until Russia was defeated.

How many lives that belligerence caused!

play_arrow2play_arrow1

goldhoarder
4 hours ago

They are fighting for freedom or money laundering or something...

play_arrow1play_arrow

El Hosel
5 hours ago

NEXT

play_arrow2play_arrow

Ghiaur
5 hours ago

It was a sacrifice he was willing to make. Thanks for playing!

play_arrow2play_arrow

Ahmeexnal
1 hour ago

HOW MANY DIED BUILDING CHINA'S GREAT WALL....AND AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL SAYS NOTHING.

play_arrow1play_arrow

Somewhat Unisex
1 hour ago

We labor’d some folks.

Any chance we can put these guys in charge of our migrants too?

play_arrow1play_arrow1

Galtmandu
1 hour ago

(Edited)

In comparison, 5 people reportedly died building the Empire State building 90 years ago.

You have to purposefully create an unsafe worksite today to get 500 people killed.

I have statistic'd,

Galtmandu

play_arrow1play_arrow1

Bullet_Sponge
2 hours ago

Shocking number of deaths. It sounds a lot like the chernobyl incident where mid level officials trying to appease their bosses put pressure on people below them like a lot of bosses do.

Hope this doesn't derail the efforts. I watched the interview with the Qatar official, everything he was saying was right on. Looks like they're trying to do the right thing.

Sporting events take a while to get into. People have to fall in love with the players, has to be drama...

Also people can only care so much about a sport they watch but don't participate in. Everyone has different interests. Some of the money spent on soccer stadiums could be spent on the 2nd, 3rd most popular sports.

play_arrow1play_arrow

MANvsMACHINE
2 hours ago

Who cares about a bunch of sweaty men chasing a ball?

What the article fails to mention is the fact that all 400-500 who died were vaxxed and boosted. If not, it would have been so much worse.

play_arrow2play_arrow

Everybody Ropes, Everybody Rides
2 hours ago

Always amazes me the amount of money that is spent on circuses.

play_arrow1play_arrow

Games Without Frontiers
2 hours ago

remove
link

They virtue signal then awarded these guys the World Cup.

Que Pasa Miami
2 hours ago

More likely 4 or 5 thousand, but who really cares anyhow.

play_arrow1play_arrow1

THE END BEGINS
2 hours ago
(Edited)

How many of those people (real people) who walked among us died lost i.e. never personally received Christ and were on the road to perdition when alive? It's a good bet that most of them, if not all of them, are now in an eternity of suffering that they will never, ever escape from.

Jesus said that on judgment day, many will be turned away from entering Heaven even though they claimed his name and performed many wonderful works in his name. He said even those who cast out demons in his name will be turned away ...

"*Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works?And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity*" (Matthew 7:22-23).

The reason that they were turned away is because they were do-gooders. They we're trusting in their riches and their good works to save them. They did not possess the one qualification that allows someone entrance into Heaven.

"He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him" (John 3:36).

"And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire" (Revelation 20:15).

Is your name in that book? I hope so. Find out what that one qualification is that you may possess eternal life and be allowed entrance into Heaven by clicking the link below..

ETERNAL SECURITY DEBATE 1: CAN A PERSON LOSE THEIR SALVATION ONCE SAVED?

CONDITIONALISM VS. ETERNAL TORMENT VS. UNIVERSAL RECONCILIATION

play_arrow1play_arrow2

jamesedtx
2 hours ago

There is no hell. Salvation is for the children of Israel. 500 workers dying over a 12 year period in one of the world's ****hole's isn't a big deal.

play_arrowplay_arrow2

THE END BEGINS
2 hours ago
(Edited)

LIFE AFTER DEATH: VISIONS OF HELL

The rich, the poor, the in-between, the indifferent ... "*ALL*" who are without Christ shall be driven into damnation and have no hope for eternal life once they breathe their last breath. Is this you?

play_arrow1play_arrow2

MANvsMACHINE
2 hours ago

Prove it.

play_arrow1play_arrow1

A.Retard
2 hours ago

the stupid rules in soccer make no sense

play_arrow1play_arrow

A.Retard
2 hours ago

for a stupid soccer game LOL

play_arrow1play_arrow

toady
2 hours ago

"Meh... **** happens."

-Hassan Al-Thawadi

play_arrow1play_arrow

rando
3 hours ago

I'm guessing that was the similar death toll "PER DAY" on slaves when the Kings and Pharaohs erected all those Pyramids and Penis symbol structures. Mines bigger!

play_arrow1play_arrow

thealtthug
2 hours ago

Exactly. Same thing, different time.

play_arrow1play_arrow

IamNewt
3 hours ago

Just like ancient Egypt. Maybe they can enslave the right people again?

play_arrow1play_arrow

Powerball_Trillionaire
3 hours ago

Only 800 were stoned to death....

play_arrow1play_arrow1

Ahmeexnal
1 hour ago

BRITISH HOOLIGANS ARE ALWAYS DRUNK AND STONED.

play_arrowplay_arrow1

tested-positive
3 hours ago

Get with the program.

Every last one of those deaths can be attributed to Covid-19.

What's this **** about the heat and harsh working conditions?

play_arrow1play_arrow2

buzzsaw99
3 hours ago

https://t.me/covidbc/6943

play_arrow1play_arrow1

ssgredux
4 hours ago

Does that include gay workers who took a flying leap off a tall building?

play_arrow1play_arrow

Ban KKiller
4 hours ago

Moo slim and his low IQ, inbred followers can't build anything. Too stupid.

play_arrow1play_arrow1

capndiesalot
PREMIUM
4 hours ago

I do not care.

play_arrow1play_arrow

QABubba
4 hours ago

It is possible to have both safe and profitable workplaces. I worked in the oilfield of the seventies, and we lost three people within two weeks.

It is not like that now.

play_arrow1play_arrow1

goldhoarder
4 hours ago

The USA had an actual economy back then.

play_arrowplay_arrow

Ahmeexnal
1 hour ago

YEP, VIETNAM KEPT THE MILITARY INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX ALIVE AND KICKING.

play_arrowplay_arrow1

Hermit in a Cave
5 hours ago

Piers the pleb thinks writing uncensored next to his name actually makes him more trustworthy?

play_arrow1play_arrow

Dog Serious
5 hours ago
(Edited)

Whipped to death in the name of whatever!

play_arrow1play_arrow

Cranky The Un-clown
3 hours ago

It's the cost of doing business

Can we hand out the cup now?

play_arrowplay_arrow2

Ink Pusher
6 minutes ago

'Qatari Official Casually Admits 'Between 400 & 500' Worker Deaths For World Cup Construction'

Translation:

*__Acceptable death toll__ for the creation of a venue for an international sporting event where alcohol sales will be prohibited and politics will overshadow all participants or competitors.

play_arrowplay_arrow

Chargly 2
10 minutes ago
(Edited)

Thankfully, here in America!

The upper body of congress voted to show those cutaris a thing or two and demand same sex marriage. For everyone!

Because unlike doing their presumed jobs to not possibly murder everyone with intent or out of indifference or fear, or for profit, and oppose Der vaxxes.

They cannot even pass a resolution to not do that to American school kids!

But trans people are ruling the insane distracted asylum apparently.

However, in cutar, Muslim 9th century jumped up goat herders are mean n' sh*t!

Who would have guessed?!

play_arrowplay_arrow

Crush the cube
12 minutes ago

How else did you expect them to get that turf so green and lush in the desert?

play_arrowplay_arrow

Chargly 2
19 minutes ago

remove link

What isn't highlighted is the religion likely of some of these migrants.

But that sports ball was sure good.

Almost like it isn't the end of the world.

Chargly 2
29 minutes ago

Did they at least not have to pee in bottles and get 4 or 5 months off for mlk and (those people's) history "months"?

play_arrowplay_arrow

Chargly 2
31 minutes ago

So these cutaris are crackers?

Yeah this happens all the time with migrant workers.. in the middle east

Dude was working a slave labor game of chance or extreme workout construction job at 100 times under the average cutari salary?

That doesn't seem super nice.

Are we sure cutaris are not pews?

Well at least they hate trans people and made Telemundo female reporters there for raving mad Mexicans wear head rags.

play_arrowplay_arrow

Francis Marxximus
43 minutes ago

You don't want a Christian God...you have the alternative god who does not love and could care less. Rubs off onto the followers.

play_arrowplay_arrow1

Trapper Creek
PRO
51 minutes ago

There's no QOSHA in Qatar is there ?

play_arrowplay_arrow

Purple Rabbit
56 minutes ago

They were a sacrifice to the moon gods of Baall.

play_arrowplay_arrow

CovidBannedTard
58 minutes ago

Work them to death and delay their pay for 11 months.

Slave labor keeps the Western World entertained.

play_arrowplay_arrow

LouTurks
PREMIUM
1 hour ago

Qatar gives gifts to those in power so it's ok.

play_arrowplay_arrow

lion in winter
1 hour ago

thats the norm for infrastructure projects.

play_arrowplay_arrow

3.14159
1 hour ago

Working humans to death in the desert heat. That hasnt been done in AmeriKa in over a hundred years.

Old traditions die hard...

play_arrowplay_arrow

LouTurks
PREMIUM
1 hour ago

Oh look at you. Your TV knowledge is good.

play_arrowplay_arrow

Pooter
1 hour ago

lol make Himalayian Sherpas work in the hot sunny desert, what do you think would happen?

play_arrowplay_arrow

CryptoingTheLightFantastic
2 hours ago
(Edited)

Fortunately for Europe, the same people who hate Europeans for religious and racist reasons will now be providing them with all of their natural gas! At least until the utopia of Year Zero becomes manifest throughout the EU via solar panels and wind turbines made by 12 year old Chinese girls in CCP slave labor camps. Imagine how bad this situation could be if the West didn't have such a strong moral conscience and wasn't so dedicated to the sacred principles of democracy.

play_arrowplay_arrow1

moonmac
2 hours ago

This should have been solved in 1946.

play_arrowplay_arrow1

Spacelord77
3 hours ago

Yet the woke western teams are happily there practicing their propaganda...

Same as: "We have to reduce our electricity usage but we want everyone to buy an EV"

play_arrowplay_arrow

ThomasJefferson69
3 hours ago

Just TCNs....lol.

play_arrowplay_arrow

Powerball_Trillionaire
3 hours ago

What say you Snidley, you Iranian boot licker?

play_arrowplay_arrow2

zeroisunbiased
3 hours ago

why don't fans build it in exchange for free tickets? problem solved in more ways than one...

play_arrowplay_arrow1

Offthebeach
4 hours ago

Important thing were the Apple Iphone Pro 14 adds successful?

play_arrowplay_arrow

HistoryRepeat
4 hours ago

Sounds like Budweiser should have donated all that beer to the workers.

play_arrowplay_arrow

Vinividivinci
4 hours ago

"It is what it is" ...

play_arrowplay_arrow

back4more
4 hours ago

remove link

Nothing to see here, move along...

..
5 hours ago
(Edited)

.

play_arrowplay_arrow

HankLove
PREMIUM
5 hours ago

remove link

Al-Thawadi master of Al-Taqiyyah

play_arrowplay_arrow

Castor gordo el tercero
5 hours ago

How many of those were executions?

play_arrowplay_arrow1

john milton
5 hours ago

Pls dont start bashing qatar now..

Liver sausage just made huge 15y lng contract with them..

Double stantards at play here again

play_arrowplay_arrow1

war, sanctions: nov30 Lights Go Out On Hungary Stadiums, Theatres As Energy Crisis Bites

Rocketing energy bills are forcing Hungary to shutter libraries, theatres, swimming pools and even its new football stadiums for winter.

History, government: nov30 germany defeats france 1940, 10's of thousands of british, french, and german casualties

this results in the german occupation of france after an armistice was signed. It lasted for 4 years, 1940-1944 until the Liberation of France after the Normandy and Provence landings.
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/German_military_administration_in_occupied_France_during_World_War_II

The term **Malgré-nous** (lit. 'we despite ourselves', or more figuratively 'we who are forced against our will') refers to men from Alsace–Lorraine who were conscripted into the German military after the region's annexation from France during World War II. The female term *Malgré-elles* is sometimes used to refer to the Alsace-Moselle women also drafted against their will into the general German War effort.[1]

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Malgr%C3%A9-nous

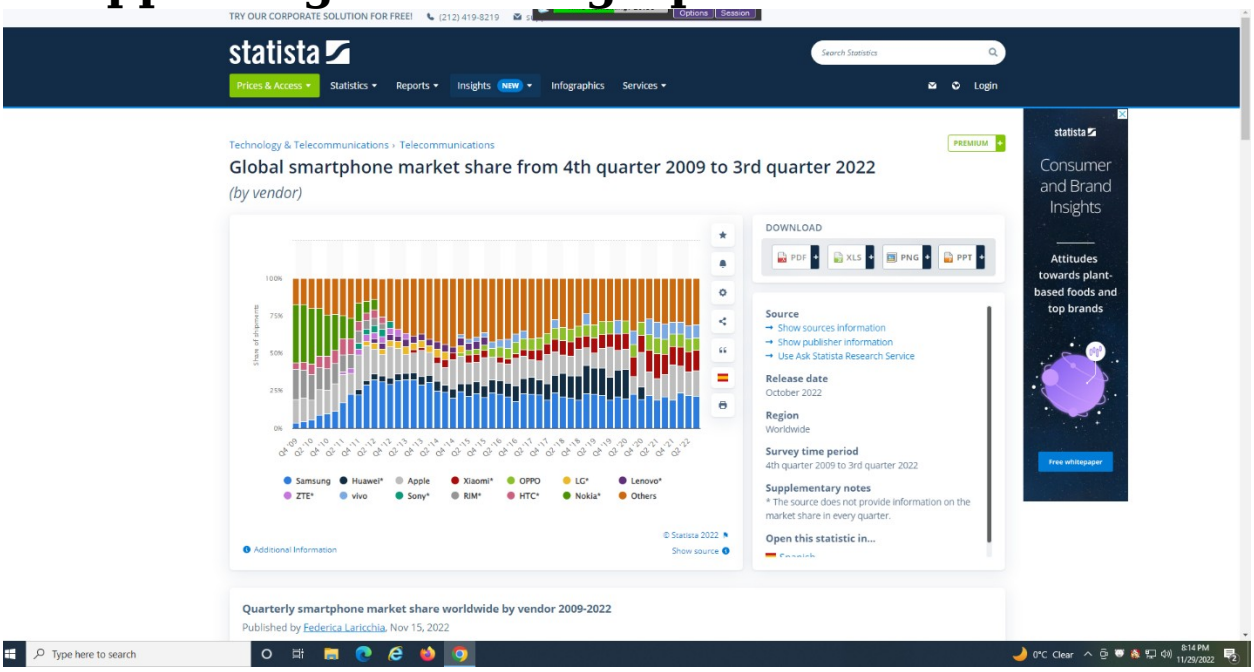
Memory of the Napoleonic Wars was still fresh in the 1870s. Wilhelm I himself had had to flee with the Prussian royal family to East Prussia as a nine year old in 1806 and had served in the Battle of Waterloo
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alsace%E2%80%93Lorraine

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/German_Empire

china, stats, sanctions: nov29

smartphone marketshare by vender on statista shows huawei go from holding up to 20% marketshare and closely rivaling samsung

(japan), and apple (usa), to literally disappearing from the graph...



rs. Huawei's market share reached up to 20 percent in previous years, however, strong performances from rivals and the effects of the U.S. trade ban have since seen Huawei fall outside the list of top five vendors by smartphone shipments. https://www.statista.com/statistics/271496/global-market-share-held-by-smartphone-vendors-since-4th-quarter-2009/

stats, tech: nov29 **Quantum computer recieves $823 million in 2021, up 70% from the year ago period according to marketwatch, November 29th 2022,**

Quantum computing is also in the midst of a venture-capital funding boom, receiving a record $823 million in 2021, up more than 70% from 2020. Palo Alto-based PsiQuantum received $450 million, which gave the company a $3.1 billion valuation. Toronto-based Xanadu, a designer of quantum silicon photonic chips received $100 million.

https://www.marketwatch.com/story/more-risk-doesnt-always-mean-greater-reward-just-look-at-these-imploded-tech-stocks-11669712414

middle east, war, energy: nov29 **Iraqi Kurdistan. 2014, Washinton Post business, nice due diligence** **https://www.washingtonpost.com/business/new-oil-pipeline-boosts-iraqi-kurdistan-the-region-made-of-three-northern-provinces/2014/06/12/50635600-ef30-11e3-bf76-447a5df6411f_story.html**

history, war, government, erdogan: nov29 The 1923 Treaty of Lausanne, superseded the Treaty of Sèvres

The 1923 Treaty of Lausanne, which superseded the Treaty of Sèvres, ended the conflict and saw the establishment of the Republic of Turkey.

Kurds comprise anywhere from 18 to 25% of the population in Turkey, 15 to 20% in Iraq 10% in Iran; and 9% in Syria.

After World War I and the defeat of the Ottoman Empire, the victorious Western allies made provision for a Kurdish state in the 1920 Treaty of Sèvres. However, that promise was broken three years later, when the Treaty of Lausanne set the boundaries of modern Turkey and made no such provision, leaving Kurds with minority status in all of the new countries.[40] Recent history of the Kurds includes numerous genocides and rebellions, along with ongoing armed conflicts in Turkish, Iranian, Syrian, and Iraqi Kurdistan. Kurds in Iraq and Syria have autonomous regions, while Kurdish movements continue to pursue greater cultural rights, autonomy, and independence throughout Kurdistan.

The ceding of Eastern Mediterranean lands saw the introduction of novel polities, including the British Mandate for Palestine and the French Mandate for Syria and Lebanon.[7]

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Treaty_of_S%C3%A8vres

Mustafa Kemal Atatürk (1923-1938), Ideologically a secularist and nationalist, founding father of the Republic of Turkey, serving as its first president

Atatürk came to prominence for his role in securing the Ottoman Turkish victory at the Battle of Gallipoli (1915) during World War I.[9] Following the defeat and dissolution of the Ottoman Empire, he led the Turkish National Movement, which resisted mainland Turkey's partition among the victorious Allied powers. Establishing a provisional government in the present-day Turkish capital Ankara (known in English at the time as Angora), he defeated the forces sent by the Allies, thus emerging victorious from what was later referred to as the Turkish War of Independence. He subsequently proceeded to abolish the decrepit Ottoman Empire and proclaimed the foundation of the Turkish Republic in its place.

As the president of the newly formed Turkish Republic, Atatürk initiated a rigorous program of political, economic, and cultural reforms with the ultimate aim of building a modern, progressive and secular nation-state. He made primary education free and compulsory, opening thousands of new schools all over the country. He also introduced the Latin-based Turkish alphabet, replacing the old Ottoman Turkish alphabet. Turkish women received equal civil and political rights during Atatürk's presidency.[10] In particular, women were given voting rights in local elections by Act no. 1580 on 3 April 1930 and a few years later, in 1934, full universal suffrage.[11]

His government carried out a policy of Turkification, trying to create a homogeneous, unified and above all secular nation under the Turkish banner.[12][13][14] Under Atatürk, the minorities in Turkey were asked to speak Turkish in public, but also were allowed to maintain their own languages at the same time;[15] non-Turkish toponyms and minorities were ordered to get a Turkish surname as per Turkish renditions.[16][17] The Turkish Parliament granted him the surname Atatürk in 1934, which means "Father of the Turks", in recognition of the role he played in building the modern Turkish Republic.[18] He died on 10 November 1938 at Dolmabahçe Palace in Istanbul, at the age of 57;[19] he was succeeded as president by his long-time prime minister İsmet İnönü[20] and was honored with a state funeral.

Stats, war, energy: nov29 world coastlines closeups, mapped; found by searching sea of marmara, a massive lake within turkey that connects the black sea in

The **Black Sea** is a large inland sea which spans **168,500 square miles** - roughly, about the same size as California, situated between **Europe** and **Asia**. During the past few centuries, it has held a **strategic and economic importance to Russia**. For security reasons too, **Russia** relies on the Crimean port of **Sevastopol** and **Novorossiysk** - large, warm-water seaports with extensive cargo transloading facilities for **maritime trade** to the rest of the world ads well as for **naval power** - so that it can **maintain control of the sea in the south**. The **Black Sea** is vital for **Russia** as it provides t**ransit routes to the Sea of Marmara**, the **Mediterranean** and the **Atlantic Ocean**. As the **world's largest exporter of grains**, it is via the warm-water ports of the Black Sea basin which Russia is able to ship its cargo

anywhere in the world **all year round**. In 2020, the **Russia Federation's container port throughput** was approximately **4,871, 919 twenty-foot equivalent units** (TEUs).
https://en.as.com/en/2022/02/25/latest_news/1645814627_130506.html

war, sanctions ,middle east: nov29 Tehran claims 300 people have lost their lives during protests, The Islamic Republic announced on 28 November

war, sanctions, middle east: nov29 Turkey has invaded northern Syria three times before

The last Turkish military operation in October 2019, "Operation Peace Spring," displaced around 300,000 people and led to accusations by human rights monitors that Turkey had committed war crimes.

Turkey views the SDF as the Syrian offshoot of the PKK and as a consistent security threat on its southern border.

The SDF is backed by the US and was the ground force which routed the so-called Islamic State (IS) from Syria in 2019. It also presides over detention camps and prisons which hold tens of thousands of suspected IS fighters.

China, war: nov29 Japan, Philippines Hold First Air Defense Training

War, middle east: Nov29 turkey

Over the past two weeks, Turkiye has been attacking the positions of Kurdish militias in northern Syria and Iraq, allegedly in pursuit of those responsible for a terror attack in Istanbul.

The attacks have targeted the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) and the People Protection Units (YPG) – two

militias that make up the bulk of the US-backed Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF).

Al Akhbar's sources allege that, in addition to preparing lists of fighters and doing an inventory of their weapons, the Turkish officials are pushing their hired militias to overcome any differences with the Hayat Tahrir al-Sham (HTS) armed group – formerly known as the Al-Nusra Front – which is also expected to take part in the Turkish ground offensive.

In an attempt to defuse the situation, Russia has been in talks with the SDF to convince the group to hand over control of the cities of Ain al-Arab, Manbij, and Tal Rifaat to Damascus. However, these talks have yet to bear fruit, as the Kurdish groups are reportedly divided between leaving with the least possible damage by opening up to Damascus, and trusting in the promises of the US government.

While Washington has condemned the attacks on Kurdish targets, US officials have also expressed 'understanding' for Turkiye's actions.

Nonetheless, the SDF is seemingly convinced that Ankara's escalation is made "just for show" months before presidential elections in the country and believes Washington will stop any ground offensive before it starts.

Censorship, government: nov29 Former USIA Director of TV and Film Service Alvin Snyder recalled in his 1995 memoir that "the U.S. government ran a full-service public relations organization, the largest in the world

Former USIA Director of TV and Film Service Alvin Snyder recalled in his 1995 memoir that "the U.S. government ran a full-service public relations organization, the largest in the world, about the size of the twenty biggest U.S. commercial PR firms combined. Its full-time professional staff of more than 10,000, spread out among some 150 countries, burnished America's image and trashed the Soviet Union 2,500 hours a week with a 'tower of babble' comprised of more than 70 languages, to the tune of over $2 billion per year". "The biggest branch of this propaganda machine" was the USIA.[1]

Within the US, the USIA was intended to assure Americans that "[t]he United States was working for a better world".[8] Abroad, the USIA tried to preserve a positive image of the U.S. regardless of negative depictions from communist propaganda. One notable example was Project Pedro. This secretly funded project created newsreels in Mexico during the 1950s that portrayed Communism unfavorably and the United States positively.[9] Articles reflecting the views promoted by the USIA were frequently published under fictitious bylines, such as "Guy Sims Fitch".[10][11]

byline as "a printed line of text accompanying a news story, article, or the like, giving the author's name"

USIA's broadcasting functions were moved to the newly created Broadcasting Board of Governors.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_Information_Agency

The Broadcasting Board of Governors is the largest public diplomacy program by the U.S. government, reaching an audience of 278 million by broadcasting in 100 countries and 61 languages. The agency was created in 1942 during World War II to send pro-democracy news across Europe, as it aimed to counter Nazi and Japanese propaganda. The agency has since evolved into a more traditional news operation, while still pushing out the virtues of democracy worldwide.

Because of the modification of the Smith-Mundt Act in 2013, the BBG can now broadcast in the U.S., too. But the influence on the domestic market could be even more subtle, the Republican official warned.

"On Jan. 21, we'll have a welcoming ceremony for our next CEO, who could be Steve Bannon, or Laura Ingraham or Ann Coulter," said a senior Voice of America staffer.

The covert mentality penetrated nearly every aspect of American life. The mandarins decided that American students should attend international conferences and youth festivals to counteract Soviet propaganda. So the CIA secretly began funding the National Student Association. Anti-communist intellectuals in Europe were deemed worthy of aid, so the CIA subsidized the Congress for

Cultural Freedom and Encounter magazine. It was decided that we should help democratic parties in Europe resist communist pressure. The CIA did it covertly.

When these covert activities surfaced (as they inevitably did), the fallout was devastating. The CIA connection, intended to protect people and organizations from public embarrassment, had precisely the opposite effect.

"A lot of what we do today was done covertly 25 years ago by the CIA," agrees Weinstein. The biggest difference is that when such activities are done overtly, the flap potential is close to zero. Openness is its own protection.

INNOCENCE ABROAD: THE NEW WORLD OF SPYLESS COUPS rest of article

INNOCENCE ABROAD: THE NEW WORLD OF SPYLESS COUPS

Resize Text1 Print Article/

By David Ignatius September 22, 1991 ◊ Follow @ignatiuspost

NOBODY WAS rude enough to say so during last week's confirmation hearings for Robert M. Gates to head the CIA, but the old era of covert action is dead. The world doesn't run in secret anymore. We are now living in the Age of Overt Action.

The great democratic revolution that has swept the globe over the past few years has been a triumph of overt action. The CIA old boys spent a generation fantasizing about this sort of global anti-communist putsch. But when it finally happened, it was in the open. There were no secret paramilitary armies, and there was almost no bloodshed. The key operatives in the conspiracy turned out to be telephones, televisions and fax machines.

Working in broad daylight, the United States and its allies were able to do things that would have been unthinkably dangerous had they been done in the shadows. Consider:

When Boris Yeltsin's aides were trying to rally support for their resistance in Moscow on Aug. 19, the first day of the coup, they needed to broadcast their defiant message to Russia and the world. One of them sent a fax to Allen Weinstein, a pro-democracy activist who heads a think tank in Washington.

"Did Mr. Bush make any comments upon the situation in this country?" implored the handwritten fax message. "If he did, make it known by all means of communication to the people of this country. The Russian government has no NO ways to address the people. All

radio stations are under control. The following is {Boris Yeltsin's} address to the Army. Submit it to USIA. Broadcast it over the country. Maybe 'Voice of America.' Do it! Urgent!"

And it was done, in the open.

Next, it was time for the leader of the free world to contact the Kremlin rebel who was seeking to dismantle the Soviet empire and destroy the Communist Party. And how was this contact, arguably the most sensitive and delicate in the history of the Cold War, handled? George Bush called Boris Yeltsin on the telephone. And then he went on television and described his conversation.

We didn't need the CIA to support Yeltsin's countercoup. We just needed a telephone operator.

Preparing the ground for last month's triumph of overt action was a network of overt operatives who during the last 10 years have quietly been changing the rules of international politics. They have been doing in public what the CIA used to do in private -- providing money and moral support for pro-democracy groups, training resistance fighters, working to subvert communist rule. And, in contrast to many of the CIA's superannuated Cold Warriors, who tended to get tangled in their webs of secrecy, these overt operatives have been immensely successful.

There's an obvious lesson here for Gates, or whoever ends up heading the CIA. The old concept of covert action, which has gotten the agency into such trouble during the past 40 years, may be obsolete. Nowadays, sensible activities to support America's friends abroad (or undermine its enemies) are probably best done openly. That includes paramilitary operations such as supporting freedom fighters, which can be managed overtly by the Pentagon. And it includes political-support operations for pro-democracy activists, which may be best left to the new network of overt operators.

Sen. Daniel Patrick Moynihan (D-N.Y.) thus has it half-right when he urges that the CIA be abolished. The main problem, contrary to what Moynihan says, is not with intelligence collection -- "spying," in its purest form. That part of the CIA needs to be strengthened, not cut.

What may need abolishing is the covert-action role that was awkwardly grafted onto the CIA's basic spying mission when the agency was created in 1947. The covert-action boys were known back then as the Office of Policy Coordination. It may be time, at last, to bid them adieu. They're obsolete. They've been privatized.

That's especially true in the realm of what used to be called "propaganda" and can now simply be called information. The CIA worked hard in the old days to draw foreign newspapers and magazines into its web, so as to counter Soviet disinformation. Frank Wisner, the head of CIA covert operations during the mid-1950s, once remarked that he could play his media assets like a "mighty Wurlitzer."

Today the mighty Wurlitzer actually exists. It's called CNN. But it doesn't need playing by anybody but the independent journalists who work there. CNN's objective, omnipresent, real-time coverage of the news helps America's interests more than all the besotted Third World "media assets" of old could ever have imagined. And the bar bills are less.

Allen Weinstein, the recipient of Yeltsin's faxes, is probably the dean of the new overt operatives. Like many of the people running the new nations of Eastern Europe, he's an ex-professor. He taught history at Smith College for 15 years and even worked for several months writing editorials for The Washington Post.

Weinstein's career as an overt operator dates back to 1980, when he joined Soviet dissidents in organizing a citizens' committee to monitor the Helsinki Accords on Human Rights. He quickly became connected with the network of pro-democracy activists who were then beginning to challenge anti-democratic regimes around the world. Soon he was sponsoring conferences for dissidents, arranging visits for them to the United States and otherwise making trouble.

"The networking phenomenon is one of the things we've specialized in," explains Weinstein. His visitors in those early days included some of the insurgents who were later to lead protest movements across Eastern Europe in 1989.

"People wander through your office," he says. "They become family."

Weinstein founded the Center for Democracy in 1984 as an umbrella for his global meddling. He dispatched election-monitoring teams to the Philippines, Panama and Nicaragua that are credited with having helped topple undemocratic regimes in those countries through the ballot box. By 1990, he was hosting meetings for newly elected Polish parliamentarians; for legislative clerks from Czechoslovakia, Hungary and Poland; and for constitution-drafters from those three countries.

Trenchcoats and tradecraft were irrelevant to these gatherings. The key man in Weinstein's overt operation was the rapporteur. Boris Yeltsin and his aides were soon drawn into this transatlantic hospitality suite. They attended Weinstein's conferences, including one on environmental problems held in Moscow in early August, which was co-sponsored by Weinstein's center and the Russian republic. When the hard-liners launched their putsch a few days later, the Yeltsin aides naturally enough began sending faxes to their friend, Weinstein. The first one read simply: "It is military coup. Tanks are everywhere."

Now, with the KGB in retreat from Prague to Vladivostok, Weinstein has scheduled a conference in Sofia, Bulgaria on the topic: "The Proper Role of Intelligence Agencies in a Democracy." That may be rubbing it in.

Amazingly enough, these simple pro-democracy activities were once the exclusive province of the CIA. Back in the heyday of the Cold War, the wizards of Langley seemed to think it necessary to "recruit" the world's democrats and give them code names.

The covert mentality penetrated nearly every aspect of American life. The mandarins decided that American students should attend international conferences and youth festivals to counteract Soviet propaganda. So the CIA secretly began funding the National Student Association. Anti-communist intellectuals in Europe were deemed worthy of aid, so the CIA subsidized the Congress for Cultural Freedom and Encounter magazine. It was decided that we should help democratic parties in Europe resist communist pressure. The CIA did it covertly.

No activity was so innocent that the CIA didn't think it could be improved by secrecy.

Even Gloria Steinem, now a feminist leader, was drawn into the CIA covert web. According to CIA historian John Ranelagh, she was involved in a CIA operation to send American students to World Youth festivals in Vienna in 1959 and Helsinki in 1962.

When these covert activities surfaced (as they inevitably did), the fallout was devastating. The CIA connection, intended to protect people and organizations from public embarrassment, had precisely the opposite effect.

"A lot of what we do today was done covertly 25 years ago by the CIA," agrees Weinstein. The biggest difference is that when such activities are done overtly, the flap potential is close to zero. Openness is its own protection.

Allen Weinstein is just one of many overt operatives who helped prepare the way for the political miracles of the past two years by sponsoring exchanges and other contacts with liberal reformers from the East. It's worth naming a few more of them, to show the breadth of this movement for democracy: William Miller of the American Committee on U.S.-Soviet Relations; financier George Soros of the Soros Foundation; John Mroz of the Center for East-West Security Studies; John Baker of the Atlantic Council; and Harriett Crosby of the Institute for Soviet-American Relations. This has truly been a revolution by committee.

The AFL-CIO also deserves a healthy pat on the back. Working mostly in the open, it helped keep the Polish trade union Solidarity alive in the dark days of martial law during the early 1980s. As the AFL-CIO's Adrian Karatnycky wrote in these pages two years ago, American trade unions and the U.S. Congress provided millions of dollars to the Solidarity underground.

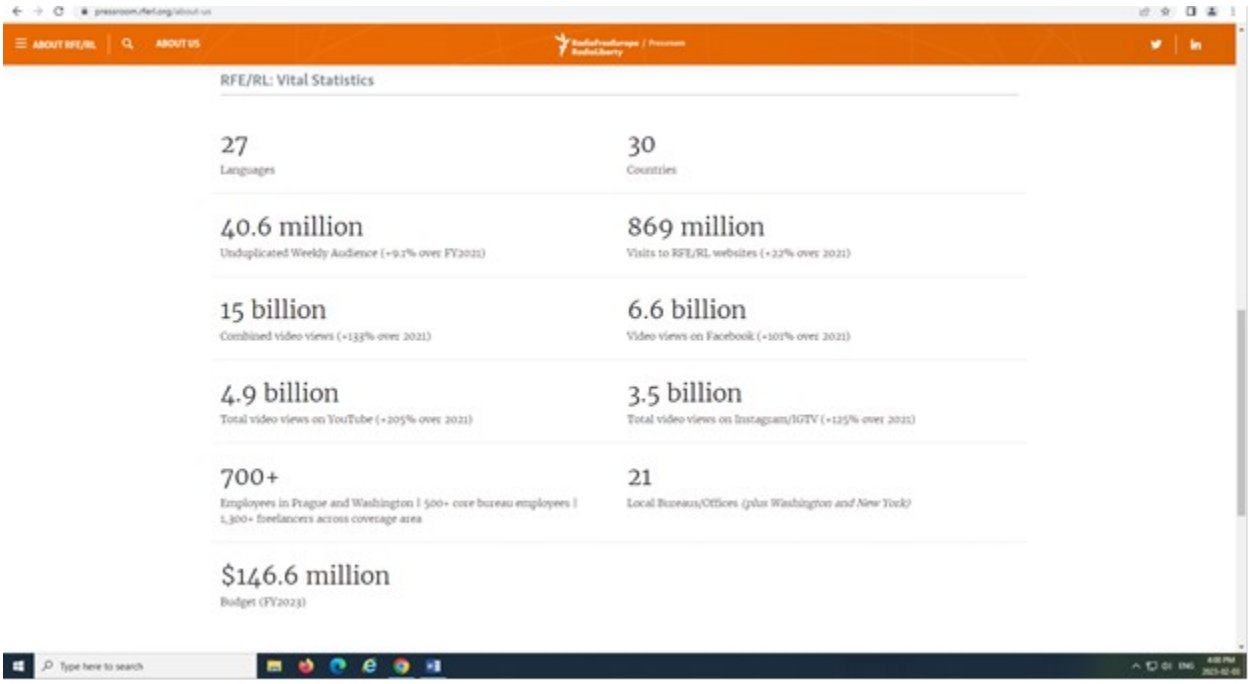
"The money underwrote shipments of scores of printing presses, dozens of computers, hundreds of mimeograph machines, thousands of gallons of printers' ink, hundreds of thousands of stencils, video cameras and radio broadcasting equipment," according to Karatnycky.

The sugar daddy of overt operations has been the National Endowment for Democracy, a quasi-private group headed by Carl Gershman that is funded by the U.S. Congress. Through the late 1980s, it did openly what had once been unspeakably covert -- dispensing money to anti-communist forces behind the Iron Curtain.

To read through the NED's grant list (a public document) is to take a stroll down the democracy movement's memory lane: In Czechoslovakia, the endowment began aiding democratic forces in 1984, including support for Civic Forum; in Hungary, the aid began in 1986 and included election help and funding for Hungary's first independent public-opinion survey; in Romania and Bulgaria, the endowment has supported new intellectual journals and other tools of democracy. Among its many activities in Poland, the endowment has backed the Gdansk Video Center, which helped produce and distribute pro-democracy videos throughout Eastern Europe during the 1980s. And through the Free Trade Union Institute and the Center for International Private Enterprise, the endowment helped support new unions and employers' associations across Eastern Europe -- building the infrastructure of a free economy.

The endowment has also been active inside the Soviet Union. It has given money to Soviet trade unions; to the liberal "Interregional Group" in the Congress of Peoples Deputies; to a foundation headed by Russian activist Ilya Zaslavsky; to an Oral History Project headed by Soviet historian Yuri Afanasyev; to the Ukrainian independence movement known as Rukh, and to many other projects.
Covert funding for these groups would have been the kiss of death, if discovered. Overt funding, it would seem, has been a kiss of life.
David Ignatius is foreign editor of The Washington Post and author of "Siro," a spy novel.

Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty (**RFE/RL**) is a United States government funded organization that broadcasts and reports news, information, and analysis to countries in Eastern Europe, Central Asia, Caucasus, and the Middle East where it says that "the free flow of information is either banned by government authorities or not fully developed".[6][7] RFE/RL is a private, non-profit 501(c)(3) corporation supervised by the U.S. Agency for Global Media, an independent government agency overseeing all U.S. federal government international broadcasting services.[8] Jeremy Bransten is acting editor-in-chief of RFE.[9]



radio free europe, that united states funded news station with billions of listeners and decades of operations, was said to be used by

student protestors during the hungarian revolution of 1956

https://courses.lumenlearning.com/suny-hccc-worldhistory2/chapter/the-hungarian-uprising/#:~:text=The%20Hungarian%20Revolution%20of%201956%20or,and%20violence%20erupted%20throughout%20the%20capital.

The revolt spread quickly across Hungary and the government collapsed. Thousands organized into militias, battling the ÁVH and Soviet troops. Pro-Soviet communists and ÁVH members were often executed or imprisoned and former political prisoners were released and armed. Radical impromptu workers' councils wrested municipal control from the ruling Hungarian Working People's Party and demanded political changes. A new government formally disbanded the ÁVH, declared its intention to withdraw from the Warsaw Pact, and pledged to re-establish free elections. By the end of October, fighting had almost stopped and a sense of normality began to return.

After announcing a willingness to negotiate a withdrawal of Soviet forces, the Politburo changed its mind and moved to crush the revolution. On November 4, a large Soviet force invaded Budapest and other regions of the country. The Hungarian resistance continued until November 10. More than 2,500 Hungarians and 700 Soviet troops were killed in the conflict, and 200,000 Hungarians fled as refugees. Mass arrests and denunciations continued for months thereafter. By January 1957, the new Soviet-installed government had suppressed all public opposition. These Soviet actions, while strengthening control over the Eastern Bloc, alienated many Western Marxists, leading to splits and/or considerable losses of membership for Communist Parties in the West.

Public discussion about this revolution was suppressed in Hungary for more than 30 years. Since the thaw of the 1980s, it has been a subject of intense study and debate. At the inauguration of the Third Hungarian Republic in 1989, October 23 was declared a national holiday.

Hungarian Uprising: Flag of Hungary, with the communist coat of arms cut out. The flag with a hole became the symbol of the revolution.

Background

Hungary became a communist state under the severely authoritarian leadership of Mátyás Rákosi. Under Rákosi's reign, the Security Police (ÁVH) began a series of purges, first within the Communist Party to end opposition to Rákosi's reign. The victims were labeled as "Titoists," "western agents," or "Trotskyists" for as insignificant a crime as spending time in the West to participate in the Spanish Civil War. In total, about half of all the middle and lower level party officials—at least 7,000 people—were purged.

From 1950 to 1952, the Security Police forcibly relocated thousands of people to obtain property and housing for the Working People's Party members and to remove the threat of the intellectual and "bourgeois" class.

Thousands were arrested, tortured, tried, and imprisoned in concentration camps, deported to the east, or executed, including ÁVH founder László Rajk. In a single year, more than 26,000 people were forcibly relocated from Budapest. As a consequence, jobs and housing were very difficult to obtain. The deportees generally experienced terrible living conditions and were interned as slave labor on collective farms. Many died as a result of poor living conditions and malnutrition.

The Rákosi government thoroughly politicized Hungary's educational system to supplant the educated classes with a "toiling intelligentsia." Russian language study and Communist political instruction were made mandatory in schools and universities nationwide. Religious schools were nationalized and church leaders were replaced by those loyal to the government. In 1949 the leader of the Hungarian Catholic Church, Cardinal József Mindszenty, was arrested and sentenced to life imprisonment for treason. Under Rákosi, Hungary's government was among the most repressive in Europe.

Middle east, war: nov29 The Moroccan state sealed the deal as a patriotic diplomatic' step that serves its interests in the Western Sahara conflict, as the US recognised Morocco's sovereignty over the disputed territory in exchange for normalisation with Israel.

Russia, war: nov29 Russia: missile strikes have been no closer than 35 km from the Polish border

Nov 16 (Reuters) - Russia said an explosion in Poland on Tuesday had been caused by a Ukrainian air defence missile and that Russian strikes in Ukraine had been no closer than 35 km (22 miles) from the Polish border.

https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/russia-says-its-strikes-ukraine-were-no-closer-than-35km-polish-border-2022-11-16/

history, fall of rome, holy roman empire: read later: Late antiquity, ime of transition from classical antiquity to the Middle Ages, spanning the 4th–6th century in Europe

Late antiquity is the time of transition from classical antiquity to the Middle Ages, generally spanning the 4th–6th century in Europe and adjacent areas bordering the Mediterranean Basin. The popularization of this periodization in English has generally been credited to historian Peter Brown, after the publication of his seminal work *The World of Late Antiquity* (1971). Precise boundaries for the period are a continuing matter of debate, but Brown proposes a period between the 3rd and 8th centuries AD. Generally, it can be thought of as from the end of the Roman Empire's Crisis of the Third Century (235–284) to the early Muslim conquests (622–750), or as roughly contemporary with the Sasanian Empire (224–651). In the West its end was earlier, with the start of the Early Middle Ages typically placed in the 6th century, or earlier on the edges of the Western Roman Empire.

Censorship, war, middle east: nov29 massive pr nightmare from 2009--potential german Cui bono indicating potential infighting within NATO, which youd assume should happen considering they are fierce cmpetitors. Allies, but still competitors

There were hellish scenes at the hospital in Kunduz, the provincial capital, about 15 miles north of the village. “Wounded people with extensive burns crowded a hospital in Kunduz,” the French news agency AFP reported. “An AFP reporter said around eight were in terrible condition— the skin burnt black and peeling off to expose raw red muscle. Others were silent in agony with incinerated clothes stuck to their flesh.”

"’Nobody was in one piece. Hands, legs, and body parts were scattered everywhere. Those who were away from the fuel tanker were badly burnt,’ said 32-year-old Mohammad Daud, depicting a scene from hell. The burned-out shells of the tankers, still smoking in marooned wrecks on the riverbank, were surrounded by the charred-meat remains of villagers from Chahar Dara district in Kunduz province, near the Tajik border. Dr. Farid Rahid, a spokesperson in Kabul for the ministry of health, said up to 250 villagers had been near the tankers when the air strike was called in."

https://www.reuters.com/article/us-afghanistan-village-sb-idUSTRE58356F20090904
https://original.antiwar.com/roberts/2009/09/06/us-hypocrisy-astonishes/

stats, war: THE 700 MILITARY BASES OF AFGHANISTAN nov29

https://fpif.org/the_700_military_bases_of_afghanistan/

middle east, war: current example of the destruction of war

598,000 homes, 182 university facilities, and 1,679 mosques, in addition to 379 tourist facilities, and 415 hospitals and health facilities have been destroyed by the Saudi-led forces

resstvdotir/Detail/2022/11/28/693526/Number-of-displaced-in-Yemen-exceeded-5-million-report-

middle east, censorship, media: nov29 gaddafi giving out viagra and condoms (fake story)

http://archive.indianexpress.com/news/gaddafi-troops-given-viagra-to-rape-us/783345/

censorship, war, middle east: nov29 Iran giving out condoms for criminals to rape us, say jailed activists

Prison guards in Iran are giving condoms to criminals and encouraging them to systematically rape young opposition activists locked up with them, according to accounts from inside the country's jail system.

guardian circulated story about police using rape as an interrigation tctic for men as young as 18

https://www.theguardian.com/world/2011/jun/24/jailed-iran-opposition-activists-rape

"They gave us warm water to drink and one meal a day. Repeated smacking was a regular punishment. In interrogations, they kept on asking if I was instructed from abroad. I believed I was going to be sent from the detention centre to prison. But they sent me to where they called Roughnecks' Room. There were some other youths of my age in there. I asked a guard why I am not sent to prison and the reply was: 'You have to be our guest for a while.'

"I refused to confess during interrogations. They said: 'Ask your friends what we'll do to you if you don't co-operate.' Others in the room were also arrested on 15 June. I was tempted to confess at this point but I didn't. On the third and fourth day, they beat me up again. They insisted we were instructed from abroad. I kept on saying we were only protesting for our votes.

"It was on Saturday or Sunday that they raped me for the first time. There were three or four huge guys we had not seen before. They came to me and tore my clothes. I tried to resist but two of them laid me on the floor and the third did it. It was done in front of four other detainees.

"My cell mates, especially the older one, tried to console me. They said nobody loses his dignity through such an act. They did it to two other cell mates in the next days. Then it became a routine. We were so weak and beaten up that could not do anything.

https://www.theguardian.com/world/2009/jul/01/iran-protest-arrests-afshin-friend

iran, middle east, islam: iranian top officials openly promote archiac ideas with regards ot the role of women in society; says woman can't even go to a funeral without husbands permission, 1988

IRAN AND THE SLAVERY OF WOMEN

By **JACK ANDERSON** and
DALE VAN ATTA
December 21, 1988

The brains of women are smaller than the brains of men and that's why men are the rulers and women are the housekeepers. It's true. Just ask Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, speaker of the Iranian parliament. He is the man the Reagan administration considers to be the moderate hope of a dissolute Iran.

Rafsanjani opined on the shortcomings of the female in a prayer sermon: "A man's brain is larger. Women mature too fast. The breathing power of men's lungs is greater and women's heartbeats are faster . . . . Men heed reasoning and logic, whereas most women tend to be emotional . . . . Courage and daring are stronger in men."

When Rafsanjani speaks, others follow. Hadi Khameini, the brother of Iranian president Ali Khameini and a parliamentary deputy, likes the small-brain theory too. "The average size of a man's brain is larger than a woman's," he was quoted as saying in a Persian-language newspaper. "A man's nervous system is more resistant. He is less afraid and deals with danger more easily. A woman's feelings are less stable than a man's. A woman is more cautious, fearful, talkative and ceremonious than a man . . . . Women cannot compete with men in the rational sciences and problems of pure logic . . . . Abstaining from housework is dreadful torture for a woman."

War, middle east, history: More than one million people were killed during the brutal 1980-88 war between Iran and Iraq

https://www.peoplesworld.org/article/iran-pursues-german-companies-that-gave-saddam-hussein-chemical-weapons/

Erdogan, stats, middle east: nov28 kurds, pkk, turkey oppresses them I guess....

https://www.cfr.org/global-conflict-tracker/conflict/conflict-between-turkey-and-armed-kurdish-groups

middle east , energy, war: nov28

Turkish involvement in the Syrian civil war (wikipedia)

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/War_against_the_Islamic_State

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Northern_Iraq_offensive_(August_2014)

middle east, erdogan, war, history: nov28 important quote

Mottaki has on occasion accused the US and Israel of conspiring to form an independent Kurdistan, uniting around 25 to 30 million ethnic Kurds living in Iraq, Turkey, Iran and Syria.

november 8th, 2007

crazy tensions, confirmed apparently by the islraeli military....wow

https://thecradle.co/Article/News/18918

china, war, sanctions: nov28 first time fcc has banned tele equip from specified country

“Our unanimous decision represents the first time in the FCC’s history that we have voted to prohibit the authorization of communications and electronic equipment based on national security considerations,” FCC Commissioner Brendan Carr said in a statement on Friday.

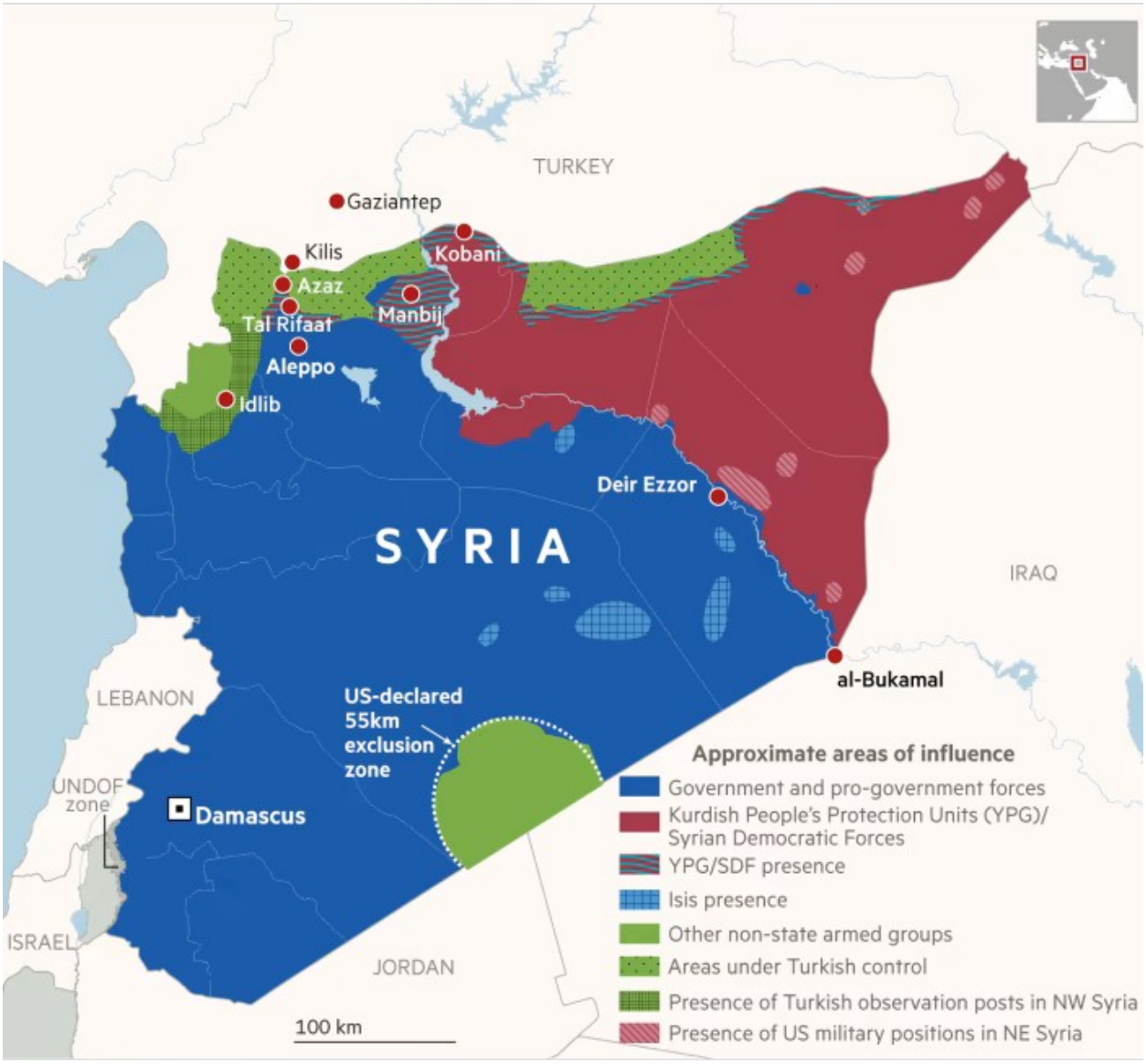
War, Africa: nov28 The US military operation in Somalia, explained

https://www.middleeasteye.net/news/us-military-operation-somalia-explained

middle east, Erdogan, war: nov28 picture of syrian control zones from ft, read later

Syria: spheres of influence

As of Dec 2021



Sources: OHCHR; Clingendael

© FT

It represents the largest Turkish footprint in an Arab state since the collapse of the Ottoman Empire in 1918 — and it could be about to get bigger as President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan warns that he wants to extend Ankara's control with a new offensive. If he follows through on his threats, it will heap more scrutiny on Turkey's long-term strategy and the role of foreign actors in Syria, after more than a decade of conflict in the Arab nation.

Backed by Russia, Iran and Iranian-aligned militias, Assad has regained control of much of the country but presides over a shattered nation. The remnants of the opposition have been driven to the north, where they rely on Turkey’s military muscle and financial aid. In the north-east, Kurdish-led militias control more than a fifth of the country, with US support and the effective protection of about 800 American troops.

read rest here:

A Kurdish homeland

The YPG came to the fore as a fighting force during the battle of Kobani after Isis seized the predominantly Kurdish Syrian border town during the jihadis’ blitz across Iraq and Syria in 2014. It became the US partner of choice to take the battle to Isis in northeastern Syria under the umbrella of the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF), an alliance of fighters dominated by the Kurdish militants that has been armed and trained by Washington.

In Ankara, Turkish officials watched with dismay as the Kurdish militias gained territory, weapons and international standing. Khalifa estimates that the SDF — which accuses Turkey of occupation — controls an army of 100,000 and runs a civil administration of a similar size.

Erdoğan first ordered troops across the border in 2016 in an offensive on the Syrian city of Jarablus, ostensibly to target Isis but also to pre-empt any advance by the Kurdish militants. That operation came weeks after Erdoğan survived a coup attempt and marked the beginning of a more assertive, interventionist foreign policy.

Ankara ordered similar offensives in 2018 and 2019, with Turkish forces fighting alongside their Syrian proxies.

Turkey launched a fourth operation in 2020 to reverse gains made by Assad forces around Idlib in the north-west, another opposition enclave home to 4mn people. Ankara has less control over Idlib, which is run by Hayat Tahrir al-Sham, an Islamist movement that is designated a terrorist organisation

by Ankara and Washington. But Turkey is in effect the ultimate protector of the area.

Those clashes ended with Turkey and Russia reaching a ceasefire agreement and the main front lines have been stagnant since, underscoring the foreign actors' influence over the fate of millions of Syrians.

Today, Ankara has varying degrees of responsibility for more than 9mn Syrians, including the refugees inside Turkey, just under half the Arab state's prewar population.

Murat Yeşiltaş, an analyst at Seta, a Turkish-think tank with close links to Erdoğan and his government, estimates the Syria intervention is costing Ankara about $2bn annually. Turkey has 4,000 to 5,000 troops inside the areas it controls and some 8,000 soldiers around Idlib, he adds.

He says Ankara is grappling with the contradiction between Turkey's professed desire for a unified Syria — not least to prevent any form of Kurdish state — while at the same time realising that "Turkey is . . . ultimately undermining the potential territorial integrity of Syria."

The options, he says, are direct rule, which would give Turkey greater scope to resolve the economic and security problems on the ground but would in effect be annexation; governing "behind the line," which would give Ankara influence without it being involved in any form of government; or exiting and putting its faith in a pro-Turkish local administration to maintain order.

At the moment, Turkey is pursuing a mix of the first two, Yeşiltaş says, adding: "If you are asking me who is the boss, of course Turkey is the boss."

He says the "current map" does not allow for an exit strategy, while suggesting that taking the northern cities of Tal Rifaat and Manbij would bolster Ankara's longer-term security and economic aims.

Any new operation would be rife with risks. There are reports that Russian-backed Assad fighters and Iranian-aligned militias have been mobilising around Manbij and Tal Rifaat. The Kurdish-dominated SDF has warned it would co-ordinate with Damascus to counter any offensive.

Despite its war in Ukraine, Turkish and western officials say there are few signs that Russia's posture in Syria has altered. A western diplomat puts the number of Russian troops at between 2,000 and 5,000, the key being air support to the Assad regime.

“For Russia, this [Syria] is a major success . . . and I don’t think they’re going to risk it and pull out,” says James Jeffrey, a former US ambassador to Turkey and former Syria envoy.

Russia’s intervention in Syria in 2015 not only tilted the war in Assad’s favour, it also bolstered Moscow’s influence in the Middle East and secured it naval and air bases in the Mediterranean.

Jeffrey also sees little prospect of the US pulling out any time soon, particularly after the debacle of its withdrawal from Afghanistan. He believes the status quo suits all the external actors if it maintains a fragile stability with frozen front lines. “They would rather live with this messy military commitment that doesn’t achieve anything other than block the other side from winning and creating more dangerous security situations for them,” he says. “That’s the calculus.”

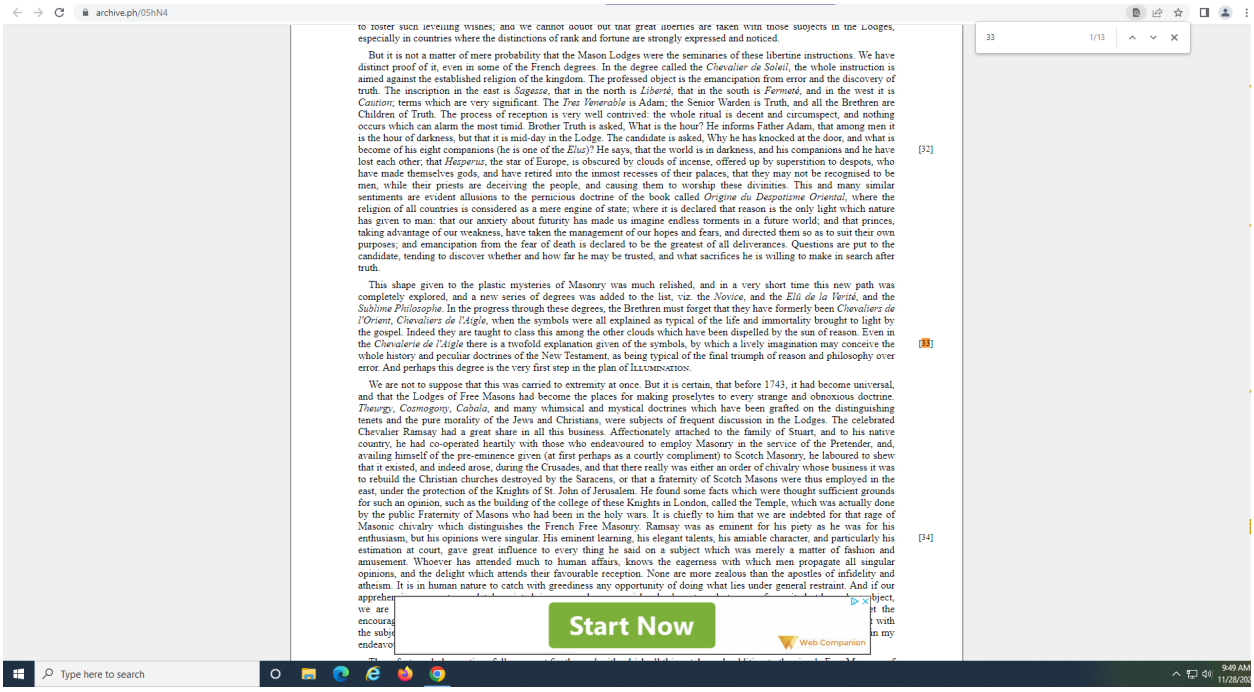
One thing that could change the calculus in Ankara is if the opposition capitalises on Erdoğan’s waning popularity to clinch victory in the upcoming elections. Most Turkish parties share the president’s concerns about Kurdish militias but criticise his decision to back the Syrian rebels. All the large parties have said that, if they win power, they would re-establish relations with Damascus, a move they say would be a prelude to sending Syrians home.

But experts argue that few refugees would return to a broken nation ruled by the despotic regime they fled. They add that Assad would be likely to demand the withdrawal of Turkish troops, raising the risk that border regions could again become a haven for Kurdish militias.

Either way, many Syrians believe Turkey is in for the long haul as they see no endgame to their country’s crisis.

“The situation will stay like this,” says Abdulghani Shobak, a Syrian opposition official. “The Syrians don’t have the decisions any more. The US has its say, and there is Russia, Iran and Turkey.”

journal, censorship, media: proofs of a conspiracy, search number 33, mentioned 13 times...weird


archive.ph/05hN4
to foster such revelling wishes; and we cannot doubt but that great liberties are taken with those subjects in the Lodges, especially in countries where the distinctions of rank and fortune are strongly expressed and noticed.
But it is not a matter of mere probability that the Mason Lodges were the seminaries of these libertine instructions. We have distinct proof of it, even in some of the French degrees. In the degree called the Chevalier de Soleil, the whole instruction is aimed against the established religion of the kingdom. The professed object is the emancipation from error and the discovery of truth. The inscription in the east is Sagesse, that in the north is Liberté, that in the south is Fermeté, and in the west it is Caution; terms which are very significant. The Tres Venerable is Adam; the Senior Warden is Truth, and all the Brethren are Children of Truth. The process of reception is very well contrived: the whole ritual is decent and circumspect, and nothing occurs which can alarm the most timid. Brother Truth is asked, What is the hour? He informs Father Adam, that among men it is the hour of darkness, but that it is mid-day in the Lodge. The candidate is asked, Why he has knocked at the door, and what is become of his eight companions (he is one of the Elus)? He says, that the world is in darkness, and his companions and he have [32] lost each other; that Hesperus, the star of Europe, is obscured by clouds of incense, offered up by superstition to despots, who have made themselves gods, and have retired into the inmost recesses of their palaces, that they may not be recognised to be men, while their priests are deceiving the people, and causing them to worship these divinities. This and many similar sentiments are evident allusions to the pernicious doctrine of the book called Origine du Despotisme Oriental, where the religion of all countries is considered as a mere engine of state; where it is declared that reason is the only light which nature has given to man: that our anxiety about futurity has made us imagine endless torments in a future world; and that princes, taking advantage of our weakness, have taken the management of our hopes and fears, and directed them so as to suit their own purposes; and emancipation from the fear of death is declared to be the greatest of all deliverances. Questions are put to the candidate, tending to discover whether and how far he may be trusted, and what sacrifices he is willing to make in search after truth.
This shape given to the plastic mysteries of Masonry was much relished, and in a very short time this new path was completely explored, and a new series of degrees was added to the list, viz. the Novice, and the Elû de la Verité, and the Sublime Philosophe. In the progress through these degrees, the Brethren must forget that they have formerly been Chevaliers de l'Orient, Chevaliers de l'Aigle, when the symbols were all explained as typical of the life and immortality brought to light by the gospel. Indeed they are taught to class this among the other clouds which have been dispelled by the sun of reason. Even in [33] the Chevalerie de l'Aigle there is a twofold explanation given of the symbols, by which a lively imagination may conceive the whole history and peculiar doctrines of the New Testament, as being typical of the final triumph of reason and philosophy over error. And perhaps this degree is the very first step in the plan of ILLUMINATION.
We are not to suppose that this was carried to extremity at once. But it is certain, that before 1743, it had become universal, and that the Lodges of Free Masons had become the places for making proselytes to every strange and obnoxious doctrine. Theurgy, Cosmogony, Cabala, and many whimsical and mystical doctrines which have been grafted on the distinguishing tenets and the pure morality of the Jews and Christians, were subjects of frequent discussion in the Lodges. The celebrated Chevalier Ramsay had a great share in all this business. Affectionately attached to the family of Stuart, and to his native country, he had co-operated heartily with those who endeavoured to employ Masonry in the service of the Pretender, and, availing himself of the pre-eminence given (at first perhaps as a courtly compliment) to Scotch Masonry, he laboured to shew that it existed, and indeed arose, during the Crusades, and that there really was either an order of chivalry whose business it was to rebuild the Christian churches destroyed by the Saracens, or that a fraternity of Scotch Masons were thus employed in the east, under the protection of the Knights of St. John of Jerusalem. He found some facts which were thought sufficient grounds for such an opinion, such as the building of the college of these Knights in London, called the Temple, which was actually done by the public Fraternity of Masons who had been in the holy wars. It is chiefly to him that we are indebted for that rage of Masonic chivalry which distinguishes the French Free Masonry. Ramsay was as eminent for his piety as he was for his enthusiasm, but his opinions were singular. His eminent learning, his elegant talents, his amiable character, and particularly his [34] estimation at court, gave great influence to every thing he said on a subject which was merely a matter of fashion and amusement. Whoever has attended much to human affairs, knows the eagerness with which men propagate all singular opinions, and the delight which attends their favourable reception. None are more zealous than the apostles of infidelity and atheism. It is in human nature to catch with greediness any opportunity of doing what lies under general restraint. And if our
Start Now
Web Companion
Type here to search
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11/28/202

Erdogan, war, middle east: nov27
readlater

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2019_Turkish_offensive_into_north-eastern_Syria

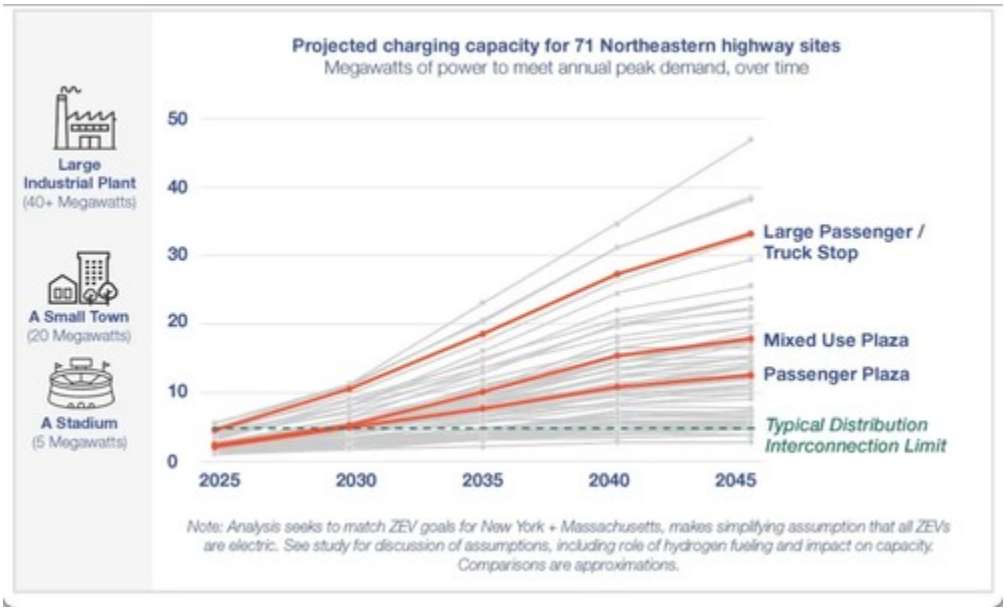
energy, stats, planet: nov27 large
charging statiosn to require as much electricity as a small town by 2035 according to new report from National grid

EV Charging Stations By 2035 Will Need More Power Than A Small Town

BY TYLER DURDEN
SUNDAY, NOV 27, 2022 - 12:00 AM

A new report from the electricity and gas utility National Grid (which serves parts of New York and Massachusetts) found a rapid increase in electric vehicles on the city streets and highways will require upgraded power grids to handle all the new demand. By 2035, a charging station could demand as much power as a sports arena or small town.

National Grid expects by 2035, large charging stations serving EVs, from SUVs and pickup trucks to delivery vans and semi-trucks, would require 19 megawatts of peak power -- that's approximately what a small town uses. In 2045, those large charging stations could demand upwards of 30 megawatts of capacity, with peak usage of a large manufacturing plant.


Projected charging capacity for 71 Northeastern highway sites
Megawatts of power to meet annual peak demand, over time
Large Industrial Plant
(40+ Megawatts)
A Small Town
(20 Megawatts)
A Stadium
(5 Megawatts)
50
40
30
20
10
0
2025
2030
2035
2040
2045
Large Passenger / Truck Stop
Mixed Use Plaza
Passenger Plaza
Typical Distribution Interconnection Limit
Note: Analysis seeks to match ZEV goals for New York + Massachusetts, makes simplifying assumption that all ZEVs are electric. See study for discussion of assumptions, including role of hydrogen fueling and impact on capacity. Comparisons are approximations.

National Grid said current charging stations couldn't serve the EV demand of the future, indicating significant power-grid improvements would be needed. It said expanding the charging infrastructure would take time:

"Building these high-voltage interconnections and upgrades can take years, which is why it's important to take action right now.

"By making 'no-regrets' upgrades at 'no-regrets' sites, we can make sure fast-charging is there when drivers need it—and not a moment too late," the report said.

Today, the impact of EV charging on the grid is small, and there is enough excess capacity to handle the current fleet of cars, SUVs, vans, and pickup trucks.

As EV adoption expands, so will the electricity demand, and as we've noted, nuclear power generation will be the best form of on-demand clean energy. The White House understands nuclear is the future for a sustainable

clean grid, as they rush to secure a "large amount" of funding for a domestic uranium strategy.

Unreliable solar and wind won't be enough to power the Biden administration's ambitious plan for half of all new vehicles sold in 2030 to be electric. Meanwhile, California set a target of 2035 to phase out the sale of new gasoline-powered light-duty vehicles.

Momentum is certainly building to electrifying vehicle fleets. In doing so, increasing investments in zero-emission nuclear power production and sourcing uranium domestically will be the key to sustainably powering future EV demand.

Africa, stats, media, censorship: nov27 cool comment

Mali is no more a real country than Libya ever was – both are creations of European imperialism, which drew arbirary borders in the Great Scramble and then left, leaving local tribes and clans to fight it out among themselves

Stats, media, history, sanctions, censorship: *"Gentlemen, I must speak from a higher and more truthful plane. It must be stated openly that, in effect, superior races have rights over inferior races."*

Jules Ferry, ***twice prime minister of France, from [1880-1881, 1883-1885].***

https://web.viu.ca/davies/H479B.Imperialism.Nationalism/Ferry.Fr.imperialism.1884.htm

middle east, history, erdogan: nov27, mostly suez, title includes info on algeria. started ths backwords. Sonatrach, Algerian oil company, is the largest company in Africa; most of algerian oil (2/3rds) is unexplored, they say

from 1882 to 1956, the british controlled the suez canal

Israel's victory in the Six-Day War left the entirety of the Egyptian Sinai Peninsula up to the eastern bank of the Suez Canal under Israeli control.

https://www.forbesmiddleeast.com/lists/top-100-ceos-in-the-middle-east-2022/osama-rabie/

The **Suez Crisis**, or the **Second Arab–Israeli war**,[15][16][17] also called the **Tripartite Aggression** (Arabic: العدوان الثلاثي, romanized: *Al-ʿUdwān aṯ-Ṯulāṯiyy*) in the Arab world[18] and the **Sinai War** in Israel,[19] was an invasion of Egypt in late 1956 by Israel, followed by the United Kingdom and France. The aims were to regain control of the Suez Canal for the Western powers and to remove Egyptian president Gamal Abdel Nasser, who had just swiftly[20] nationalised the foreign-owned Suez Canal Company, which administered the canal. Israel's primary objective was to re-open the blocked Straits of Tiran.[21] After the fighting had started, political pressure from the United States, the Soviet Union and the United Nations led to a withdrawal by the three invaders. The episode humiliated the United Kingdom and France and strengthened Nasser.[22][23][24]

On 26 July 1956, Nasser nationalised the Suez Canal Company, which prior to that was owned primarily by British and French shareholders. On 29 October, Israel invaded the Egyptian Sinai. Britain and France issued a joint ultimatum to cease fire, which was ignored. On 5 November, Britain and France landed paratroopers along the Suez Canal. Before the Egyptian forces were defeated, they had blocked the canal to all shipping by sinking 40 ships in the canal. It later became clear that Israel, France and Britain had conspired to plan the invasion. The three allies had attained a number of their military objectives, but the canal was useless. Heavy political pressure from the United States and the USSR led to a withdrawal. U.S. president Dwight D. Eisenhower had strongly warned Britain not to invade; he threatened serious damage to the British financial system by selling the U.S. government's pound sterling bonds. Historians conclude the crisis "signified the end of Great Britain's role as one of the world's major powers".[25][26][27] [*page needed*]

In 1978, Sadat and Menachem Begin, Prime Minister of Israel, signed a peace treaty in cooperation with United States President Jimmy Carter, for which they were recognized with the Nobel Peace Prize.

As President, he led Egypt in the Yom Kippur War of 1973 to regain Egypt's Sinai Peninsula, which Israel had occupied since the Six-Day War of 1967, making him a hero in Egypt and, for a time, the wider Arab World. first Muslim Nobel laureate at the time.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anwar_Sadat

The **Convention of Constantinople**[3][4] is a treaty concerning the use of the Suez Canal in Egypt. It was signed on 29 October 1888 by the United Kingdom, Germany, Austria-Hungary, Spain, France, Italy, the Netherlands, the Russian Empire, and the Ottoman Empire. The Khedivate of Egypt, through whose territory the Canal ran, and to whom all shares in the Suez Canal Company were due to revert when the company's 99-year lease to manage the Canal expired, was not invited to participate in the negotiations, and did not sign the treaty.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Convention_of_Constantinople

middle east, stats, history, Erdogan: eye opening

John Pilger summed up the past 8 years of Obama by writing, “according to a Council on Foreign Relations survey, in 2016 alone Obama dropped 26,171 bombs. That is 72 bombs every day. He bombed the poorest people on earth, in Afghanistan, Libya, Yemen, Somalia, Syria, Iraq, Pakistan.

“Every Tuesday – reported The New York Times – he personally selected those who would be murdered by mostly hellfire missiles fired from drones. Weddings, funerals, shepherds were attacked, along with those attempting to collect the body parts festooning the “terrorist target.”

Crypto, sanctions, stats: read later: logisitics future blockchain increases trust (pay first, free on board, etc.)

https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2022/10/this-is-what-the-future-of-logistics-looks-like/

https://www.investopedia.com/terms/f/fob.asp

learned about forfaiting from trying to investigate wtf happened with this company after it, as it says explicitly in article – amazing how we forget – spiked 1000% in 2 days for what seemed to everybody no f’ing reason.

“The tiny, little known stock first caught Wall Street’s attention in mid-December. Shares soared well over 1,000 percent in two days after Longfin announced it was buying Ziddu. A filing showed the microlending company was purchased from a private Singapore firm

called Meridian Enterprises that is 95 percent owned by Longfin CEO Meenavalli.”

In the U.S., forfaiting is mainly used by established large and medium-sized corporations that export capital goods and commodities on transactions exceeding $100,000. Forfaiting can also offer opportunities in markets considered high-risk.

Most forfaiting transactions will have a maturity ranging between 180 days and seven years, the payment period for foreign buyers of U.S. exports. Forfaiters, not U.S. exporters, are responsible for collecting payments from foreign buyers.

tradedotgov/forfaiting

history, Russia: Circassian genocide

The **Circassian genocide**,[3][4][5][6][7] or **Tsitsekun**,[a][b] was the Russian Empire's systematic mass murder, ethnic cleansing, and expulsion of 80–97%[3][7] of the Circassian population, around 800,000–1,500,000 people,[3][4][5] during and after the Russo-Circassian War (1763–1864).[1][9][10] The peoples planned for removal were mainly the Circassians, but other Muslim peoples of the Caucasus were also affected.[9] Several methods used by Russian forces such as impaling and tearing the bellies of pregnant women were reported.[1][11] Russian generals such as Grigory Zass described the Circassians as "subhuman filth", and glorified the mass murder of Circassian civilians,[1][12][13] justified their use in scientific experiments,[14] and allowed their soldiers to rape women.[1]

During the Russo-Circassian War, the Russian Empire employed a genocidal strategy of massacring Circassian civilians. Only a small percentage who accepted Russification and resettlement within the Russian Empire were completely spared. The remaining Circassian population who refused were variously dispersed or killed en masse.[15] Circassian villages would be located and burnt, systematically starved, or their entire population massacred.[3] Leo Tolstoy reported that Russian soldiers would attack village houses at night.[16] William Palgrave, a British diplomat who witnessed the events, adds that "their only crime was not being Russian".[17] In 1864, "A Petition from Circassian leaders to Her Majesty Queen Victoria" was signed by the Circassians requesting humanitarian aid from the British Empire.[18][19][20] In the same year, mass deportation was launched against the surviving population before the end of the war in 1864 and it was mostly completed by 1867.[21] Some died from epidemics or starvation among the crowds of deportees and were reportedly eaten by dogs after their death.[17] Others died when the ships underway sank during storms.[22]

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Circassian_genocide

vaccine, health, government, war, censorship: nov25 **academic freedom is dead, says stanford professor of medicine and 3 year professor at rand corporation (1998-2001)**

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jay_Bhattacharya

"If Stanford really truly were committed to academic freedom, they would have… worked to make sure that there were debates and discussions, seminars, where these ideas were discussed among faculty," he urged, adding that ***"power replaced the idea of truth as the guiding light."***

Anti-Lockdown Stanford Professor: "Academic Freedom Is Dead"

BY TYLER DURDEN
FRIDAY, NOV 25, 2022 - 03:15 PM

Authored by Steve Watson via Summit News,

A Stanford Professor who challenged the orthodoxy of lockdowns has warned that "academic freedom is dead," and that all those who have stood up to the regime narrative now face "a deeply hostile work environment."

Dr. Jay Bhattacharya, an author of the Great Barrington Declaration in which thousands of scientists called for a policy of herd immunity over lockdowns, warned that "When you take a position that is at odds with the scientific clerisy, your life becomes a living hell."

Speaking at the Academic Freedom Conference at Stanford's Graduate School of Business recently, Bhattacharya, who previously described lockdowns as the most catastrophically harmful policy in "all of history," and "the single worst public health mistake in the last 100 years," noted "we have a high clerisy that declares from on high what is true and what is not true."

Watch:

In a further interview with Fox News, Bhattacharya noted "The basic premise is that if you don't have protection and academic freedom in the hard cases, when a faculty member has an idea that's unpopular among some of the other faculty – powerful faculty, or even the administration … If they don't protect it in that case, then you don't have academic freedom at all."

Bhattacharya and thousands of other academics and scientists were initially vilified for damning lockdowns, but have since been vindicated as the societal and medical toll of the shutdowns has been revealed.

Bhattacharya said of the declaration, ***"The purpose of the one-page document was aimed at telling the public that there was not a scientific consensus in favor of lockdown, that in fact many epidemiologists, many doctors, many other people – prominent people – disagreed with the consensus."***

The professor then described how proponents of the declaration were systematically frozen out of discussions and debates.

"If Stanford really truly were committed to academic freedom, they would have… worked to make sure that there were debates and discussions, seminars, where these ideas were discussed among faculty," he urged, adding that ***"power replaced the idea of truth as the guiding light."***

"So you have somebody like Tony Fauci who says unironically, that if you question me, you're not simply questioning a man, you're questioning science itself," Bhattacharya further noted, adding "That is an exercise of raw power, where he places himself effectively as the pope of science rather than a genuine desire to learn the truth."

"They systematically tried to make it seem like everyone agreed with their ideas about COVID policy, when in fact there was deep disagreement among scientists and epidemiologists about the right strategy," the professor asserted.

Bhattacharya has also called on new Twitter owner Elon Musk to "expose the government censorship regime,":

Bhattacharya's comments come as a new analysis of federal and state data revealed that for the first time a majority of Americans dying from COVID were at least partially vaccinated.

"Fifty-eight percent of coronavirus deaths in August were people who were vaccinated or boosted," the Washington Post reports in a piece headlined 'Covid is no longer mainly a pandemic of the unvaccinated'.

History, stats leon hess was jewish lithuanian, part of the eastern jewish diaspora per se...interesting

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Leon_Hess

history, Germany, war: **jews, poland, most jews in eastern europe; nazi germany at its height composed almost all of europe**

https://encyclopedia.ushmm.org/content/en/article/jewish-population-of-europe-in-1933-population-data-by-country

https://www.reddit.com/r/MapPorn/comments/23xw7j/map_of_europe_at_the_height_of_nazi_german/

Journal, war, Russia: "missile shield", antiwar, read later use key word

History, holy roman, empire, Germany, church: pope, germans: read later

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Church_and_state_in_medieval_Europe

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Investiture_Controversy

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/King_of_the_Romans

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/House_of_Habsburg

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Austria-Hungary

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lands_of_the_Bohemian_Crown

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sudeten_Germans

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sudetenland

war, history, Germany: Munich Betrayal https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Munich_Agreement

history, holy roman empire: The **Holy Roman Empire**[17] since 1512 also the **Holy Roman Empire of the German Nation**, was a political entity[18] in Western, Central and Southern Europe that developed during the Early Middle Ages and continued until its dissolution in 1806 during the Napoleonic Wars.[19]

On 25 December 800, Pope Leo III crowned the Frankish king Charlemagne as emperor, reviving the title in Western Europe, more than three centuries after the fall of the earlier ancient Western Roman Empire in 476

The title was revived again in 962 when Otto I, King of Germany, was crowned emperor by Pope John XII, fashioning himself as the successor of Charlemagne[29] and beginning a continuous existence of the empire for over eight centuries.[30][31][e] Some historians refer to the coronation of Charlemagne as the origin of the empire,[32][33] while others prefer the coronation of Otto I as its beginning.[34][35] Henry the Fowler, the founder of the medieval German state (ruled 919–936),[36] has sometimes been considered the founder of the Empire as well.[37] The modern view favours Otto as the true founder.[38] Scholars generally concur in relating an evolution of the institutions and principles constituting the empire, describing a gradual assumption of the imperial title and role.[39][32]

The exact term "Holy Roman Empire" was not used until the 13th century,[40] but the Emperor's legitimacy always rested on the concept of *translatio imperii*, that he held supreme power inherited from the ancient emperors of Rome.[39] The imperial office was traditionally elective through the mostly German prince-electors.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Holy_Roman_Empire

government, stats: commonwealth info

Under the Balfour Declaration of 1926, dominions were proclaimed as considered "equal in status, in no way subordinate one to another in any aspect of their domestic or external affairs, though united by a common allegiance to the Crown"[22][6][23][24][25][26] and the monarch is "equally, officially, and explicitly [monarch] of separate, autonomous realms".[6][23][27][25] Andrew Michie wrote in 1952 that "Elizabeth II embodies in her own person many monarchies: she is Queen of Great Britain, but she is equally Queen of Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Pakistan, South Africa, and Ceylon... it is now possible for Elizabeth II to be, in practice as well as theory, equally Queen in all her realms."[28] Still, Boyce holds the contrary opinion that the crowns of all the non-British realms are "derivative, if not subordinate" to the crown of the United Kingdom.[29]

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Commonwealth_realm

war, middle east, energy: important links , read later

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Iran%E2%80%93Israel_proxy_conflict

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/South_Lebanon_conflict_(1985%E2%80%932000)
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Black_September
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hashemites

middle east, war, stats: kurdistan region only recognized after saddam was assassinated on live television

The Iraqi High Tribunal sentenced Saddam Hussein and two others to death in November for the killing of 148 men and boys from the town of Dujail in 1982. The tribunal's statute prohibits, contrary to international law, the possibility of commuting a death sentence. It also requires that the execution take place within 30 days of the final appeal.

https://web.archive.org/web/20070104080629/http://hrw.org/english/docs/2006/12/30/iraq14950.htm

war, middle east: houthis took credit for the missile strike on saudi arabia in sept 2019

The Houthis took credit for the September 14th drone attack on Saudi oil facilities that crippled the kingdom's oil output. Both the U.S. and Saudis blamed Iran for the attack, and the U.S. responded by sending a few hundred troops and some military equipment to Saudi Arabia.

newsdotantiwardotcom/2019/09/28/yemens-houthis-claim-an-assault-on-southern-saudi-arabia/

stats, tech, censorship: nov24 china unviels super camera that can pin point a face out of 10 000 people, something people probably wouldn't blink an eye at today

The massive videos and images captured by the camera can also be uploaded to a cloud data center.

Due to the "ultra-long distance" and "high-definition imaging" characteristics, the camera aroused personal privacy concerns, Zeng said.

Zeng called for laws and regulations to standardize the application of the camera.

http://www.ecns.cn/news/sci-tech/2019-09-23/detail-ifzpefys6628597.shtml

iran, sanctions ,war: maximum pressure

Recent date from the IMF shows why this theory was persuasive. The IMF's most recent "Regional Economic Outlook: Middle East and Central Asia," reports that Iran's "Gross Official Reserves" fell from an average of $70 billion in 2000-2017, and $122.5 billion in 2018, to $12.4 billion in 2019 and an amazing $4 billion in 2020. At that level Iran was on a rough par with countries such as Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Armenia, and Georgia. By contrast, in 2020 Algeria had $46.7 billion in reserves, Iraq had $54.1 billion, Libya $51 billion--and Afghanistan $8.6 billion, twice as much as Iran.

cfrdotorg/blog/did-maximum-pressure-campaign-against-iran-fail

nov24 turkey usually supports syrian army against rebels

Turkey's rebels aren't directly aligned with al-Qaeda, but they also aren't fighting, and during times of Syrian offensives, Turkey tends to support whoever Syria is fighting.

newsdotantiwardotcom/2019/09/26/military-buildup-in-northern-syria-reinforcements-head-to-front-line

media, stats: marital rape has been considered legal in the Commonwealth up until the

"The husband cannot be guilty of a rape committed by himself upon his lawful wife, for by their mutual consent and contract the wife hath given up herself in this kind unto her husband, which she cannot retract."

https://www.pepysdiary.com/encyclopedia/5639/

age of consent for canada was raised from 14 to 16.....in 2008....

wtf..The last time the law was changed was in the year 1890, when it was raised from 12 to 14...
https://web.archive.org/web/20110505222100/http://www.parl.gc.ca/Content/LOP/researchpublications/prb993-e.htm

stats, war, sanctions: nice wikipedia of a client state

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Client_state

media, war: nov24 top french editorial says ukraine is a worse crisis than ehtiopia or even haiti

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https://www.lemonde.fr/international/article/2022/11/24/la-guerre-en-ukraine-est-un-rouleau-compresseur-qui-ecrase-d-autres-situations-de-crise-comme-celles-en-ethiopie-ou-en-haiti_6151423_3210.html
https://www.lemonde.fr/international/article/2022/11/24/la-guerre-en-ukraine-est-un-rouleau-compresseur-qui-ecrase-d-autres-situations-de-crise-comme-celles-en-ethiopie-ou-en-haiti_6151423_3210.html

“The war in Ukraine is a steamroller that crushes other crisis situations like those in Ethiopia or Haiti”

Chronic

Jean-Philippe Remy

The Ethiopian conflict and the Haitian crisis are relegated to limited visibility, notes, in his column, Jean-Philippe Rémy, head of the International Service of the "World".

Posted today at 12:45 p.m., updated at 12:45 p.m. Time toReading 3 mins.

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Article reserved for subscribers

Ihere are so many ways to tell about the war, its bravery, its horrors. The one raging in Ukraine is no exception: a large disparate narrative is bubbling there, against a backdrop of geopolitical changes and global concerns. This war is also, like any major crisis, a steamroller crushing any form of alternative attention.

Read also: Article reserved for our subscribers Ethiopia: in Lalibela, life to the rhythm of the civil war

Elsewhere in the world, other crisis situations are relegated to limited visibility by this high-stakes, high-spectacle machine. A civil war in northern Ethiopia has been going on behind closed doors for two years. Is it over? Hardly anyone outside the region bothered to make sure. The fate of a nation of over 100 million people depends on it. The conflict that tears it apart may have resulted in the deaths of 100,000 people. Or even double. Figures of an order of magnitude comparable to that of the estimates of military losses on both sides in Ukraine.

In a different genre, a country collapses on itself in a slow motion to which no one seems to pay the attention it deserves. This country is Haiti. Tiny progress has been made there recently, which speaks to the ordeal the Caribbean nation is going through. In early November, a series of police operations, equipped with new armor, drove the coalition of G9 gangs – whose figurehead is the former police officer Jimmy Chérizier, known as "Barbecue" – from the entrance to the terminal. oil tanker in Varreux, Haiti's main access point for fuel. Tanker trucks under strong escort began to supply gradually Port-au-Prince, the capital, then the rest of the regions, after two months of shortage.

"Our country is on the verge of collapse"

Unblocking the terminal will not solve all the ills from which the country suffers, where more than a hundred gangs are now active. A new cholera epidemic is gaining momentum. The armed gangs, partly responsible for this situation, are indifferent to it. However, these gangs are not neighborhood banditry, even aggravated. For a long time, hoodlums have served Haitian political leaders, from the "tontons macoutes" of President Duvalier, to the "chimeras" of Jean-Bertrand Aristide.

"During the last three decades, some politicians have dealt with gangs and armed groups in the context of political mobilizations, campaigns and electoral operations, repression of protest movements", summarizes the professor at the University of State of Haiti Jhon Picard Byron in a column published by *AlterPresse* , August 27. On election days, thugs are used to direct the voting of entire neighborhoods. But, for ten years and the coming

to power of Michel Martelly (2011-2016) , everything has exploded: the power of these gangs, corruption, attacks against institutions.

You have 50.85% of this article left to read. The following is for subscribers only.

History, stats nov24 Couscous connection

brother of tunisian dictator with no political opposition carged in absentia for being part of an international drug traifficking ring involved in money laundering...

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Couscous_connection

middle east, war, history: arab spring, yemen, sept 18th, 2019 front page

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yemeni_Revolution

antiwardotcom/past/20190919.html

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Houthi_movement

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Abqaiq%E2%80%93Khurais_attack

energy, china, stats: turkmenistan is chinese natgas

In December 2009 the first line, Line A, of the Trans-Asia pipeline to China opened, creating a second major market for Turkmen natural gas. By 2015 Turkmenistan was delivering up to 35 billion cubic meters per annum (bcma) to China.[125] China is the largest buyer of gas from Turkmenistan, via three pipelines linking the two countries through Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan. In 2019, China bought over 30bcm of gas from Turkmenistan,[126][127] making China Turkmenistan's main external source of revenue.[128]

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Turkmenistan#Natural_gas_and_export_routes

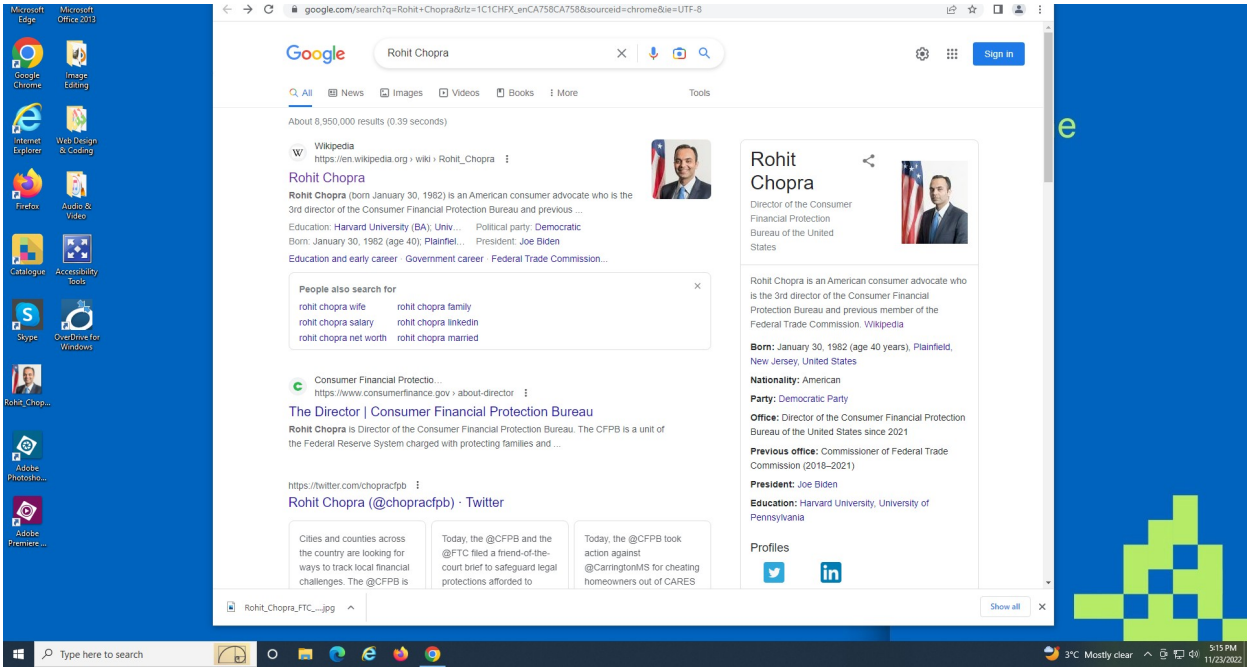
markets, government: nov23 they already did it in China with baba's makeover their fintec industry. chinese government forced

him to form holding company or something-- forge the exact details

In April, Mr. Chopra said he would tap what he called the consumer bureau’s “dormant authority” to conduct supervisory audits of nonbank financial-technology firms whose activities the agency has “reasonable cause to determine pose risks to consumers.” Conservative critics say this novel exercise of the bureau’s powers risks strangling a nascent fintech industry.

wsjdotcom/articles/rohit-chopra-biden-regulation-cfpb-fdic-ftc-11654713281

government, media, stats: ## conversationeast indian government official lists nationality: American


Rohit Chopra
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Wikipedia
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Rohit Chopra
Rohit Chopra (born January 30, 1982) is an American consumer advocate who is the 3rd director of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau and previous ...
Education: Harvard University (BA); Univ... Political party: Democratic
Born: January 30, 1982 (age 40); Plainfiel... President: Joe Biden
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Today, the @CFPB and the @FTC filed a friend-of-the-court brief to safeguard legal protections afforded to
Today, the @CFPB took action against @CarringtonMS for cheating homeowners out of CARES
Rohit Chopra
Director of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau of the United States
Rohit Chopra is an American consumer advocate who is the 3rd director of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau and previous member of the Federal Trade Commission. Wikipedia
Born: January 30, 1982 (age 40 years), Plainfield, New Jersey, United States
Nationality: American
Party: Democratic Party
Office: Director of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau of the United States since 2021
Previous office: Commissioner of Federal Trade Commission (2018–2021)
President: Joe Biden
Education: Harvard University, University of Pennsylvania
Profiles
Show all
Type here to search
3°C Mostly clear
5:15 PM
11/23/2022

War, russia: Rather, the experienced Russian Foreign Minister was received at the Indonesian holiday island with red carpets and an Honour Guard on the runway. Even a traditional dance was performed for him. In this way, even Lavrov’s reception made it clear that the Russian delegation was a welcomed party to the G20. It is noted that not even US President Joe Biden was welcomed in the same way as Lavrov.

originaldotantiwardotcom/ahmed-adel/2022/11/22/western-attempts-to-isolate-russia-at-g20-summit-failed/

markets, stats, inflation, government, censorship: **credit suisse was at the forfront of the 3x leveraged volatility and comodities ETF's**

https://www.cnbc.com/2022/11/15/credit-suisse-to-sell-securitized-products-business-to-apollo-as-it-accelerates-restructure.html

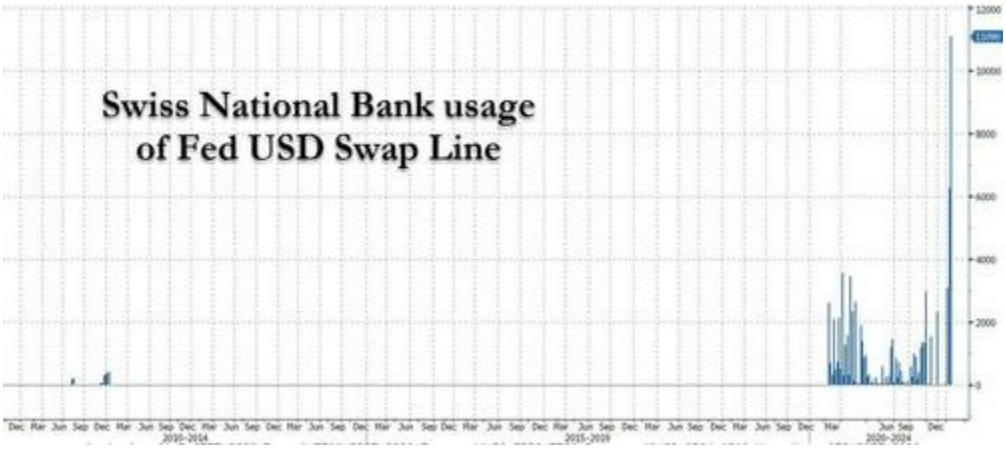
these are the securitized products: ETFs...(I think anyways)

Credit Suisse Craters To Record Low After Revealing Staggering $88 Billion Bank Run

BY TYLER DURDEN
WEDNESDAY, NOV 23, 2022 - 11:29 AM

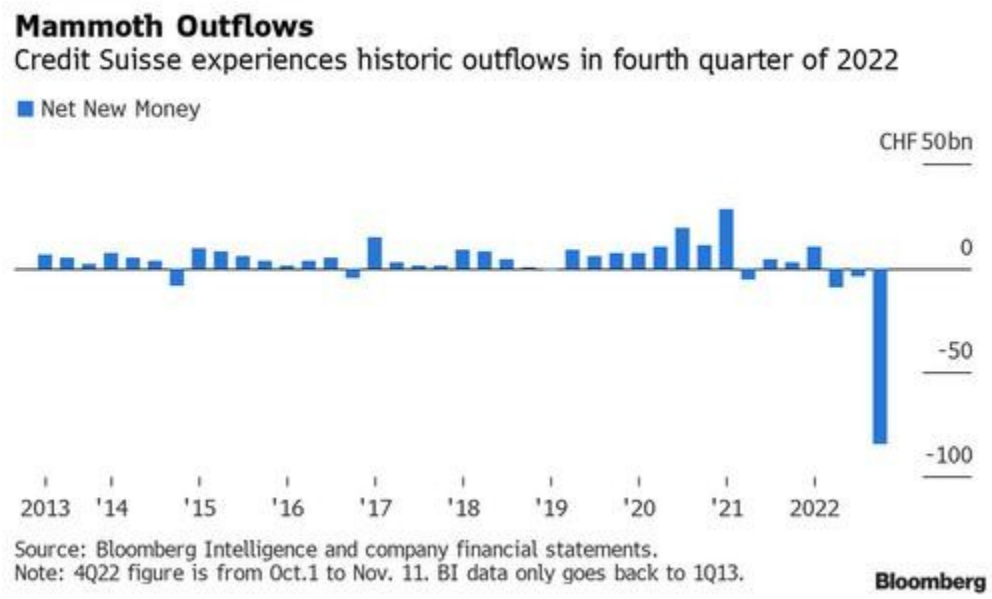
One month ago, weeks before the crypto sector was shaken by the crushing FTX bankrun which led to a quick and painful bankruptcy, and revealed that one of the world's biggest crypto exchanges and its "JPMorgan-esque" owner were nothing but hollow shells of fraud, another bank was suffering from a far bigger bank run.

Readers will recall that in mid-October we reported that the Fed was quietly wiring increasingly greater dollar amounts to the Swiss National Bank - which eventually peaked at around $11 billion weekly - which in turn was then using these dollar swap lines to plug USD funding holes within one or more Swiss commercial banks.



One didn't need to be a rocket surgeon to figure out that the bank in question was Credit Suisse, which had seen its stock tumble amid a relentless barrage of scandals, corporate mistakes and the occasional fraud (that we know of), and which we said was likely suffering from a painful behind-the-scenes bank run.

Fast forward one month, when this morning the 2nd largest Swiss bank confirmed our worst-case speculation, admitting that it had just gone through a staggering bank run in which **clients pulled as much as 84 billion Swiss francs, or $88.3 billion, of their money from the bank during the first few weeks of the quarter,** underlining ongoing concerns over the bank's restructuring efforts after years of scandals.



Of course, as FTX learned the hard way, bank runs don't have a happy ending, and the Zurich-based bank warned on Wednesday that **it will face a loss of up to 1.5 billion Swiss francs ($1.6 billion) for the three final months of the year,** in large part as a result of the decline in wealth and asset management client funds from the start of October to Nov. 11. That, according to Bloomberg, **is the worst exodus since the financial crisis.**

The outflows were especially acute at the key wealth management unit, **where they amounted to 10% of assets under management.** While they have been “reduced substantially from the elevated levels of the first two weeks of October 2022,” **they have yet to reverse,** the bank said.

This means that just as we expected, the massive dollar swap lines were being used by the SNB to provide Credit Suisse with much needed, critical funding; had the funds not arrived, Credit Suisse would likely have liquidated!

The client withdrawals contrast with inflows at rival wealth managers in recent months. AT UBS Group AG, investors added more than $17 billion to the wealth management unit in the third quarter. Julius Baer Group Ltd. said on Monday that it saw a “clear improvement” in new money flows since the end of June, with wealthy clients adding a net 4.1 billion francs in the four months through October.

“The massive net outflows in Wealth Management, CS’s core business alongside the Swiss Bank, are deeply concerning -- even more so as they have not yet reversed,” said Andreas Venditti, banking analyst at Bank Vontobel AG in Zurich. “Credit Suisse needs to restore trust as fast as possible - but that is easier said than done.”

Analysts at JPMorgan Chase & Co. and Jefferies said the wealth-management outflows were much worse than expected, and warned that bank wasn’t out of

the woods. Ethos Foundation, a proxy advisor, said more steps may be needed to restore investor confidence than the bank has so far outlined.

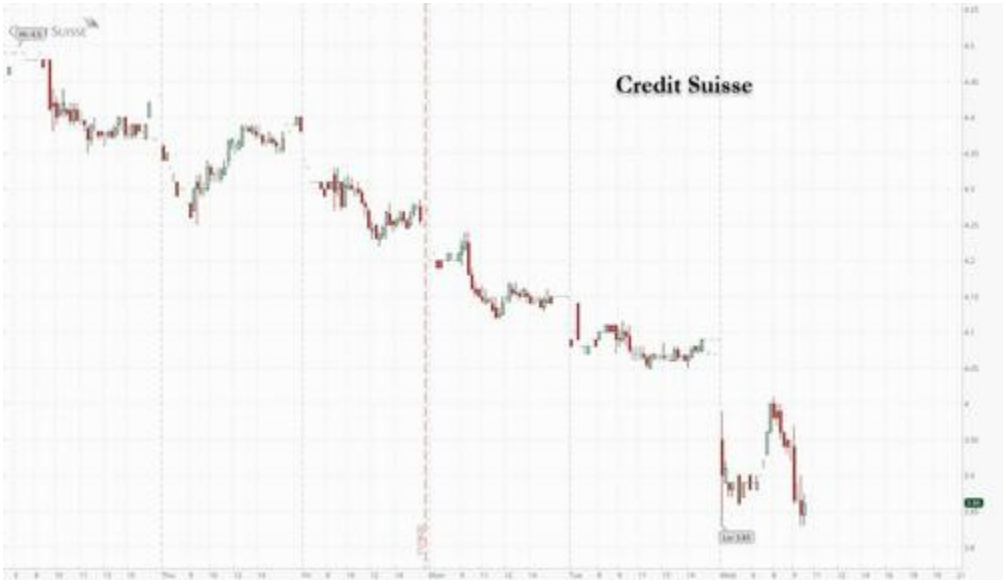
“Cutting cost is one thing but growing the business is another one,” Vincent Kaufmann, Chief Executive Officer of Ethos, said on Bloomberg TV. “Maybe they can do both, but it remains to be seen.”

Besides the massive bank run which has drained the bank's capital, the Zurich-based bank said it expects losses in both the wealth management division and its investment banking unit due to “subdued activity, market conditions, continued outflows of customer assets and the sale of non-core businesses.”

The bank's grim outlook underscores the urgency for the bank's latest (and soon to be former) Chairman Axel Lehmann to put Credit Suisse on a sustainable footing again through a sweeping overhaul that will see its investment bank carved up and greater focus placed on private banking. **Shareholders on Wednesday approved a capital raise of about 4 billion francs that’s needed to finance the restructuring, which will also see about 9,000 jobs cut by 2025.**

“Credit Suisse is on an important journey,” Lehmann said in a speech posted on the lender’s website. “We will work to rebuild and refocus this proud 166-year-old Swiss institution with global reach.”

The market was not as optimistic, and Credit Suisse tumbled more than 5%, crashing to a new record low.



In conclusion, the dismal Credit Suisse news provides a handy comparison between the fiat and crypto regimes:

- **FTX was hit with record bank run, and filed for bankruptcy in days, with no central bank to bail it out.**

- **Credit Suisse hit with record bank run, and both the SNB and Fed rushed to bail it out.**

  One wonders which system is a better representation of what true capitalism should be like...

Censorship, media, government: nov22 just took the blakc guy's money without any evidence, then didn't give it back....

After hours of being detained, Johnson returned home the next day - without the money, and without the truck. He was never charged with a crime.

https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-11450893/Arizona-cops-seized-40-000-cash-black-trucking-boss-traveling-buy-new-rig.html

middle east, history, iran, Erdogan, sanctions, censorship kurdistan region only recognized after saddam was executed

The Baghdad government only recognized the autonomy of the Kurdistan Region after the fall of Saddam Hussein, with a new Iraqi constitution in 2005

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kurdistan_Region

Africa, government, censorship, stats: nov22 this is one of the greatest article I've ever read...one of them...

Emmanuel Macron Comes Clean: "We Need A Single Global Order"

BY TYLER DURDEN
TUESDAY, NOV 22, 2022 - 07:30 AM

Authored by Paul Joseph Watson via Summit News,

During a speech at the Apec summit in Bangkok, where world leaders gathered, French President Emmanuel Macron called for a “single global order.”

Macron made the comments while discussing the power interests of Russia and China and the threat of war.

“We are in a jungle and we have two big elephants trying to become more and more nervous,” he said.

“If they become very nervous and start a war, it will be a big problem for the rest of the jungle. You need the cooperation of a lot of other animals, tigers, monkeys and so on,” added Macron.

“Are you on the U.S. or the Chinese side? Because now, progressively, a lot of people would like to see that there are two orders in this world. This is a huge mistake, even for both the U.S. and China.”

“We need a single global order,” he concluded.

Macron’s words are sure to confuse the ‘fact checker’ industry, which continues to insist that claims about the ‘New World Order’ or one world government are a baseless conspiracy theory.

Indeed, much hilarity ensued last week when it was revealed that Google-owned YouTube had effectively fact-checked a video published by ‘The World Government Summit 2022’.

In the video, the host of a panel discussion asks H.E. Dr. Anwar bin Mohammed Gargash, Diplomatic Advisor to the UAE President, ***“Are you ready for a new world order?”***

Underneath the video is a fact check box about the ‘New World Order’ which links to a Wikipedia article that states, “The New World Order (NWO) is a conspiracy theory which hypothesizes a secretly emerging totalitarian world government.”

The tone of the article debunks the notion that there is a move towards a ‘New World Order’, despite the panelists at the World Government Summit openly discussing that very agenda.

Government, media, stats, war: nov21 70 000 african migrants have entered not just europe, but italy alone, and just this year...WTF!

https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-11448161/Italian-PM-Giorgia-Meloni-slams-France-forcing-Burkina-Faso-hand-50-imports.html

censorship, vaccine, stats: nov20
the most dystopian things I've ever seen

“We assess conspiracy theories linking the spread of COVID-19 to the expansion of the 5G cellular network are inciting attacks against the communications infrastructure globally and that these threats probably will increase as the disease continues to spread, including calls for violence against telecommunications workers,” the U.S. Department of Homeland Security reported Wednesday in an intelligence report obtained by ABC News.

“Violent extremists have drawn from misinformation campaigns online that claim wireless infrastructure is deleterious to human health and helps spread COVID-19, resulting in a global effort by like-minded individuals to share operational guidance and justification for conducting attacks against 5G infrastructure, some of which have already prompted arson and physical attacks against cell towers in several US states,” the report concluded.

abcnewsdotgodotcom/US/feds-warn-attacks-related-bogus-covid-19-conspiracy/story

finished here

CISA has defended its burgeoning social media monitoring authorities, stating that “once CISA notified a social media platform of disinformation, the social media platform could independently decide whether to remove or modify the post.” But, as documents revealed by the Missouri lawsuit show, CISA’s goal is to make platforms more responsive to their suggestions.

History, middle east, tech, stats: islamic golden age, bagdad, 8th-14th century
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islamic_Golden_Age#Mathematics

journal, stats: polymath :

individual whose knowledge spans a substantial number of subjects, known to draw on complex bodies of knowledge

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Polymath

history, stats, media, holy roman empire, church:

Polish and Latin were the two co-official languages of the Polish–Lithuanian Commonwealth

The Commonwealth was established by the Union of Lublin in July 1569, but the Crown of the Kingdom of Poland and the Grand Duchy of Lithuania had been in a *de facto* personal union since 1386 with the marriage of the Polish queen Jadwiga (Hedwig) and Lithuania's Grand Duke Jogaila, who was crowned King *jure uxoris* Władysław II Jagiełło of Poland. The First Partition in 1772 and the Second Partition in 1793 greatly reduced the state's size and the Commonwealth was partitioned out of existence due to the Third Partition in 1795.

The Union possessed many features unique among contemporary states. Its political system was characterized by strict checks upon monarchical power. These checks were enacted by a legislature (*sejm*) controlled by the nobility (*szlachta*). This idiosyncratic system was a precursor to modern concepts of democracy,[19] as of 1791 constitutional monarchy,[20][21][22] and federation.[23] Although the two component states of the Commonwealth were formally equal, Poland was the dominant partner in the union.[24]

It was one of the largest[13][14] and most populous countries of 16th to 17th-century Europe

King Frederick William II broke Prussia's alliance with the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth. He joined with Catherine the Great's Imperial Russia and the Targowica Confederation of anti-reform Polish magnates to defeat the Commonwealth in the Polish–Russian War of 1792.

The 1791 Constitution was in force for less than 19 months.[2][3] It was declared null and void by the Grodno Sejm that met in 1793,[1][3] though the Sejm's legal power to do so was questionable.[3] The Second and Third Partitions of Poland (1793, 1795) ultimately ended Poland's sovereign existence until the close of World War I in 1918. Over those 123 years, the 1791 Constitution helped keep alive Polish aspirations for the eventual restoration of the country's sovereignty. In the words of two of its principal authors, Ignacy Potocki and Hugo Kołłątaj, the 1791 Constitution was "the last will and testament of the expiring Homeland."[c]

The Constitution of 3 May 1791 combined a monarchic republic with a clear division of executive, legislative, and judiciary powers. It is generally considered Europe's first and the world's second modern written national constitution, after the United States Constitution that had come into force in 1789.[3][d]

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Constitution_of_3_May_1791

middle east, history: nov19 Muhammad Ali of Egypt and the Sudan was an Albanian Ottoman governor and de facto ruler of Egypt from 1805 to 1848, considered the founder of modern Egypt

He was a military commander in an Albanian Ottoman force sent to recover Egypt from a French occupation under Napoleon. Following Napoleon's withdrawal, Muhammad Ali rose to power through a series of political maneuvers, and in 1805 he was named *Wāli* (viceroy) of Egypt and gained the rank of Pasha.

The dynasty he established would rule Egypt until the revolution of 1952 when King Farouk was overthrown by the Free Officers Movement led by Mohamed Naguib and Gamal Abdel Nasser, establishing the Republic of Egypt.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Muhammad_Ali_Pasha

censorship, government, stats: nov19 more evidence: ALAMEDA RESEARCH taking out PPP loans. FUCK YOUUUUUUUUU!

(ZH) "FTX was founded in 2019 and in July 2021 did a $900 million funding round that valued the company at $18 billion. Later that year, it did another capital raise at a valuation of $25 billion. Investors included Tiger Global and Temasek, per Reuters.

In 2022, the company's valuation went to $32 billion when SoftBank invested near the top in January, putting $400 million into the business.

We bet the company wishes it had the $370k back now...it could probably go a long way towards legal fees."

Small business owner whose about to lose mortgage be like....

Companies and nonprofit organizations that receive PPP loans may have the loans forgiven if they meet certain criteria, including not laying off employees during the defined period covered by the loan. Applicants must attest in their application that the loans are necessary for their continuing operation. Note: This data reflects loan applications approved by banks and submitted to the SBA. It may not account for money not distributed to, or credit not used by, a given company.
If you are a representative of this company and believe this record is in error, use this form to let the SBA know.
projectsdotpropublicadotorg/coronavirus/bailouts/loans/alameda-research-llc-3971737204

energy, government, markets, stats: read later: there was an energy crisis in 2005?

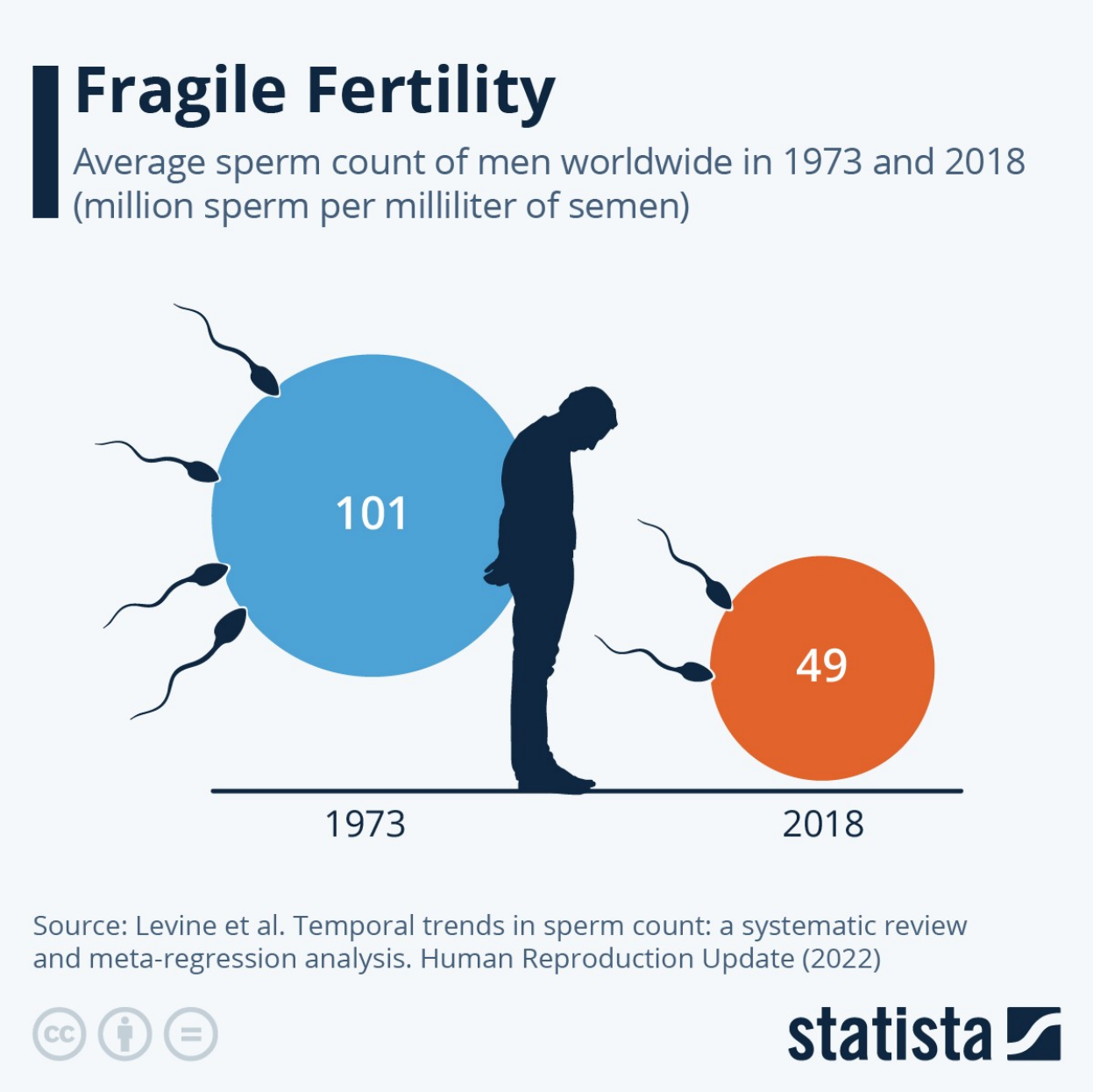
The problem in 2005, as now, was inflation in energy costs that was feeding through to inflation in general. Inflation in food prices was especially a problem. The Federal Reserve chose to fix the problem by raising the Federal Funds interest rate from 1.00% to 5.25% between June 30, 2004 and June 30, 2006.

Stats, government: nov19 american demographics

https://www.zerohedge.com/economics/visualizing-americas-changing-demographics-over-past-100-years

https://www.visualcapitalist.com/visualizing-u-s-population-by-race/

Top Israeli Physician Calls World Decline in Male Sperm Count a "Crisis"


Fragile Fertility
Average sperm count of men worldwide in 1973 and 2018
(million sperm per milliliter of semen)
101
49
1973
2018
Source: Levine et al. Temporal trends in sperm count: a systematic review and meta-regression analysis. Human Reproduction Update (2022)
statista

Hagai Levine, former Chair of Israel's association of Public Health Physicians, which I take it is the official union for doctors in the country. This guy was the chairman..

"Members include senior figures in the health sector, namely people who have greatly influenced the structure of the healthcare system, existing services, and the health system management". https://publichealth.doctorsonly.co.il/about-the-israeli-association-of-public-health-physicians/

Commenting on the decline, lead author of the study, Hagai Levine, said "I think **this is another signal that something is wrong with the globe** and that we need to do something about it" adding:

"I think it's a crisis, that we better tackle now, before it may reach a tipping point which may not be reversible".

https://www.statista.com/chart/10439/sperm-counts-of-western-men-halved-in-38-years/

war, sanctions, Russia, markets, energy, iran, Erdogan: nov19 world oil deamnd is now ABOVE 2019 level by 1 million barrels...wow.

In September, global oil demand was at 101 percent of pre-Covid levels, while crude production was at 99 percent of those levels, the data showed.

The rise in September demand was driven by diesel consumption in China and gasoline demand in the United States, said the IEF, the world's largest international organization of energy ministers.

Yet, global inventories remain 442 million barrels below the five-year average, the IEF said.

ilpricedotcom/Latest-Energy-News/World-News/World-Oil-Demand-Topped-Pre-Covid-Levels-In-September.html

censorship, government, tech: nov19 lawyer calls secret government installed andriod app "dystopian"

"The Massachusetts DPH, like any other government actor, is bound by state and federal constitutional and legal constraints on its conduct. This 'android attack,' deliberately designed to override the constitutional and legal rights of citizens to be free from government intrusions upon their privacy without their consent, reads like dystopian science fiction—and must be swiftly invalidated by the court."

Persuading the public to voluntarily adopt such apps may be difficult, but it is also necessary in a free society. The government may not secretly install surveillance devices on your personal property without a warrant—even for a laudable purpose. For the same reason, it may not install surveillance software on your smartphone without your awareness and permission."
— Sheng Li, Litigation Counsel, NCLA

nclalegaldotorg/2022/11/ncla-files-class-action-against-massachusetts-for-auto-installing-covid-spyware-on-1-million-phones

stats, journal, middle east: nov17

beautiful picture

https://www.pinterest.ca/pin/313633561544975003/

censorship, government, media, stats, vaccine: nov17

Just what I've been looking for!: realife example of employees within the national security apartus being bribed to hack into the publics personal accounts.

I've been waiting for this

"Oops": Fired Facebook Employees Took Bribes To Hijack User Accounts

BY TYLER DURDEN
THURSDAY, NOV 17, 2022 - 02:10 PM

Facebook parent Meta has fired or disciplined **over two dozen employees and contractors** over the last year who have been accused of **improperly hijacking user accounts** - in some cases for bribes, according to the *Wall Street Journal*, citing people familiar with the matter and documents seen by the outlet.

The suspects accepted **thousands of dollars in bribes** from outside hackers in some cases.

Some of those fired were contractors who worked as security guards stationed at Meta facilities and were given access to the Facebook parent's internal

mechanism for employees to help users having trouble with their accounts, according to the documents and people familiar with the matter. -WSJ

The mechanism, known internally as "Oops," was created during the company's early years in order to help users who either forgot their passwords or emails, or had their accounts taken over by hackers.

"Individuals selling fraudulent services are always targeting online platforms, including ours, and adapting their tactics in response to the detection methods that are commonly used across the industry," according to Meta spokesman Andy Stone, who added that the company would continue to take "appropriate action against those involved in these kinds of schemes."

Meta contractor Allied Universal said in a statement that it "takes seriously all reports of violations of our standards of conduct."

When users are locked out of their accounts, there are automated procedures to try and recover it - including trying to reach Meta by phone or email, which is typically an exercise in futility.

"Oops," which stands for Online Operations, is supposed to be limited to special circumstances, such as friends, family, business partners and public figures as a way to cut in line for assistance. In 2020, it serviced over 50,000 tasks - up from 22,000 just three years earlier. In order to file an Oops report, the employee or contractor lists an email address to be reset. They must answer a series of questions, including whether the request is being made for someone on CEO Mark Zuckerberg's team, a celebrity, Meta partner, or family member, the *Journal* reports.

Because so many people depend on social media for their businesses, or to manage critically important aspects of their lives, gaining illicit control of an account can be lucrative. Stolen Facebook and Instagram handles can be sold for tens of thousands of dollars on other online forums.

But in part because the Oops system is off limits to the vast majority of Facebook users, a cottage industry of intermediaries has developed who charge users money to regain control of their accounts. In interviews with the Journal, some of those third parties claim to have access to Meta employees to help reset accounts. -WSJ

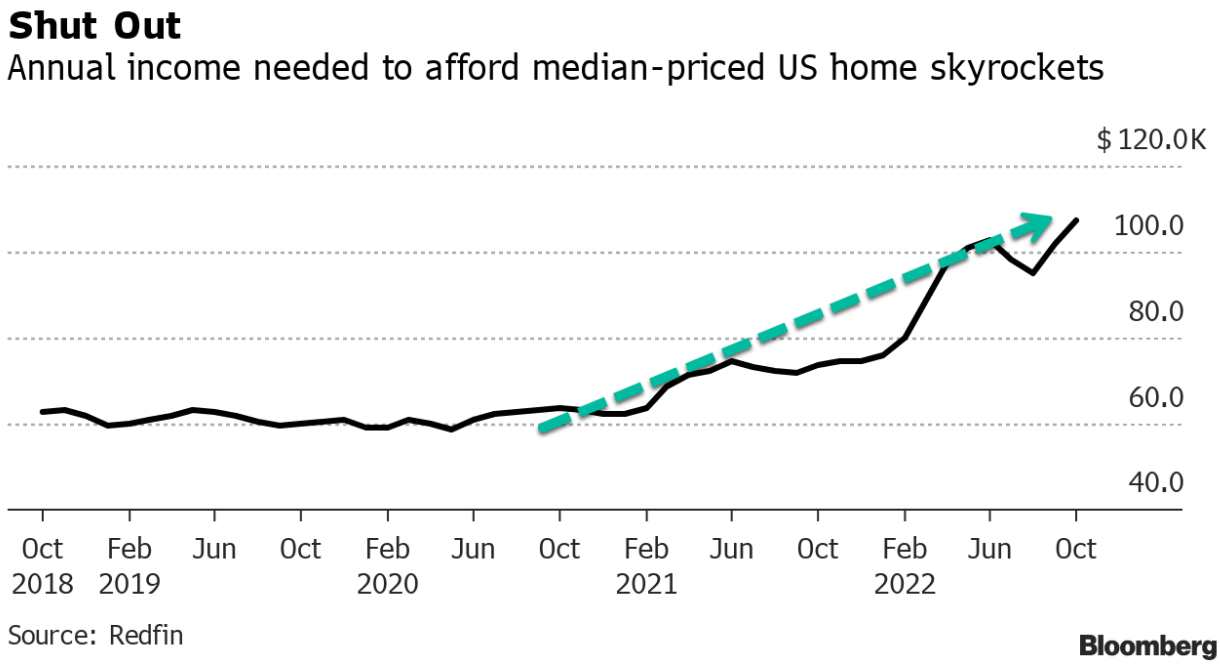
"When you take someone’s Instagram account down that they’ve spent years building up, you’re taking away their whole means of generating an income," said Nick McCandless, whose company McCandless Group operates a platform for content creators and **charges people to reset their accounts through an inside contact at Meta**.

"You really have to have someone on the inside who will actually do it."

Stats, media, censorship: nov17 "Organized Crime" Looters Steal Astounding $400 Million In Goods From Target Stores

https://www.zerohedge.com/markets/target-suffers-400-million-losses-organized-crime-gangs-loot-stores

housing, inflation, government: nov17 Rates and inflation have priced out people making UNDER $100 000



A new report via real estate brokerage firm Redfin Corp. found that in October, the average buyer needed to earn $107,281 to afford the monthly mortgage payment of a median-priced home, up a whopping 46% from a year ago of $73,668.

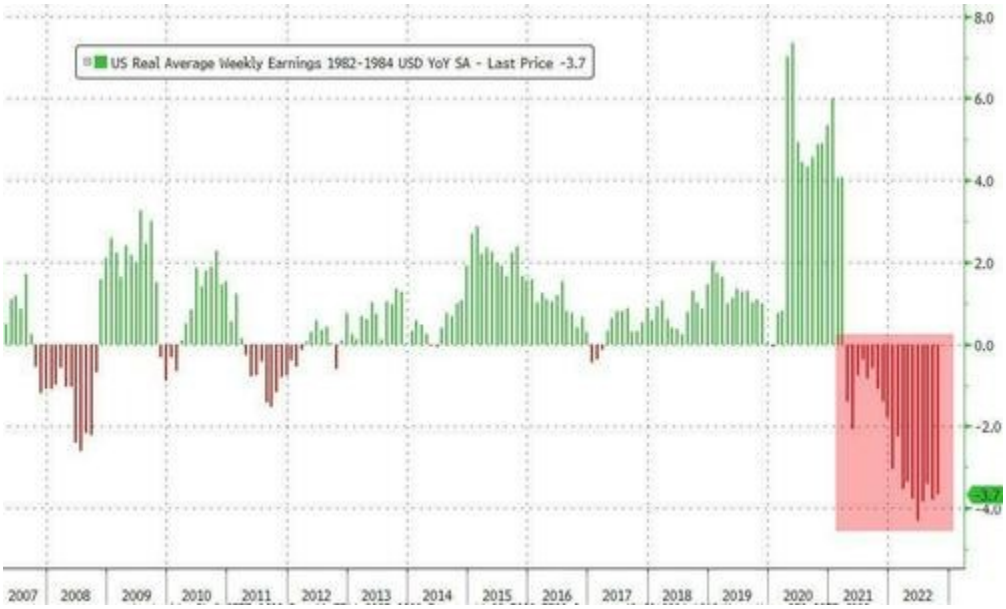
Housing Affordability Worsens As Homeownership Out Of Reach For Anyone Making Under $100k

BY TYLER DURDEN
WEDNESDAY, NOV 16, 2022 - 07:00 PM

The US housing affordability crisis continues to worsen as mortgage rates skyrocket to two-decade highs while the cost of an average home is still at bubbly levels. Financing costs are through the roof, and anyone earning less than $100,000 has been priced out of homeownership.

A new report via real estate brokerage firm Redfin Corp. found that in October, the average buyer needed to earn $107,281 to afford the monthly mortgage payment of a median-priced home, up a whopping 46% from a year ago of $73,668.

Considering there have been a record 19 consecutive months of negative real wage growth, most of which have been under President Biden's tenure, many prospective homebuyers have likely given up and are now renting (or back in their parent's basement).



Considering there have been a record 19 consecutive months of negative real wage growth, most of which have been under President Biden's tenure, many prospective homebuyers have likely given up and are now renting (or back in their parent's basement).

"Affordability challenges are a major reason why home sales have slowed so dramatically over the last few months," Redfin said in the report.

What's made the affordability crisis worse is the Federal Reserve's most aggressive interest rate hiking in decades to quell inflation has sent the 30-year fixed mortgage above 7% within the last several quarters.

This has caused a 'payment shock' as elevated rates, high home prices, and faltering wage growth have priced out millions of Americans.

According to the National Association of Realtors, today's souring homebuying environment has been described as the 'worst in decades'.

None of this should surprise readers since we first stated in March that soaring interest rates would significantly challenge *housing affordability*.

Today, we see the "Death Of The American Dream And Home Ownership." And what's the result: you'll rent and own nothing... Well, that's a very similar statement from the World Economic Forum: by 2030, "you'll own nothing, and you'll (still) be happy.

More importantly, all of this suggests home prices could be on the cusp of a major downturn.

We suspect 2023 will be a tumultuous year for the housing market until the Fed pivots.

... And we almost forgot that a Bloomberg OP-ED earlier this year said anyone earning less than $300k should eat lentils.

Bloomberg Opinion
@bopinion
Inflation stings most if you earn less than $300K. Here's how to deal:
Take the bus
Don't buy in bulk
Try lentils instead of meat
Nobody said this would be fun

Stats, war, sanctions: nov17 new tool shows map of bases us

https://worldbeyondwar.org/no-bases/

stats, government, markets: International central banking was officially started in 1099. By **** in the Lombardi region of Italy

Funny how you IRS form is coded 1099. I wonder how that came about?

The **** financed and insured grain, its harvest, marketing and delivery and crop losses, but based these on "futures" pricing. What was the value of the grain not at harvest, but when it reached a distant market? Thats how they made a good profit, and they charged usury of course, which Christian and Muslims were forbidden to do.

They now just do that in every market worldwide. Cohencidence?

No. Ye was right all along. There is a reason for them being kicked out of 115 city states, countries and protectorates since the exodus. If only those poor persecuted people (that you can't criticize) could explain why that is...

censorship, vaccine: nov17 picture

Gena Suarez · Follow
6h ·

A New York 8th grader drew this. Perspective. HER perspective. 🥹

Russia, war, sanctions: nov15 Interest on the national debt was $399 billion in FY22, up from under $300 billion in FY16, and is now on track to exceed $700 billion in FY24.

theburningplatformdotcom/2022/11/14/fourth-turning-winter-of-death

energy, sanctions, war: pipeline stats

https://www.reuters.com/business/energy/europes-alternatives-if-russia-shuts-off-gas-supply-2022-10-20/

stats, war, markets, government, history: nov15 they declared force majeure..get it? "yeah, something happened, (cough)"funny...

A force majeure clause is **a contractual provision stating that certain contractual obligations are suspended on certain triggering events**. (Typically, in a lease, a force majeure clause will go on to state that in any event, the obligation to pay rent and other sums will not be suspended.)Jul 27, 2022

Censorship: nice free speech article with tons of links: reade later. They shut down ann coulter

https://jonathanturley.org/2022/11/12/your-words-are-violence-coulter-cancelled-at-cornell/

energy, stats: nov12 great energy infographic

https://www.visualcapitalist.com/sp/why-fusion-will-power-the-race-to-net-zero/

stats, media: nov12 incredible infographic shows prices of illegal passports (The Dark Web Price Index 2022)
https://cms.zerohedge.com/s3/files/inline-images/2022-11-11_12-34-31.jpg?itok=7zng35Eu

ai, tech: nov8 Scientists used machine learning to develop a transparent window coating
https://www.dailymail.co.uk/sciencetech/article-11381285/Scientists-develop-transparent-window-coating-cool-buildings-without-using-energy.html

incredible new boston dynamics video (i wanna do a blog with all the latest tech, new age, industrevol2.0 gifs, memes, vids all livestreamed on one scrolling page)
investmentwatchblogdotcom/new-killer-bots-just-dropped/

stats, tech: the internet was created by a brit
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tim_Berners-Lee

stats, tech: data centers for internet
https://wordpress.com/forums/topic/wordpress-data-center-locations/

https://history-computer.com/the-10-largest-web-hosting-companies-in-the-world-and-what-they-do/

"While people often think of the Internet as an immaterial object, the data that makes up the Internet is actually stored at a very physical location: data servers. Businesses sometimes operate their own servers or rent out servers from data centers, enabling them to store online files -- like those that make up a website -- and make them globally accessible. Essentially, an Internet data center server is the saving location for files accessible from the Internet."

https://smallbusiness.chron.com/internet-data-center-server-work-60422.html

https://www.wired.com/2014/05/stunning-photos-of-the-internets-hidden-infrastructure/

energy, sanctions, war, Russia: Zoltan Poltzer: Where $2 Trillion Of German Value Depends On $20 Billion Of Russian Gas

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Svz-W5w2bPM

war, stats, history: aug26 scorched earth

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Scorched_earth

aug23 price of water does not reflect its real value

https://www.ft.com/content/62ae2f7f-5101-4bae-9a89-884aa6a00d13

tech, stats, ai: aug25 Quantum Leaps, Long Assumed to Be Instantaneous, Take Time

https://getpocket.com/explore/item/quantum-leaps-long-assumed-to-be-instantaneous-take-time?utm_source=pocket-newtab

censorship: read later: wired article about spyware and nso group
https://www.wired.com/story/europe-spyware-scandals-greece/?utm_source=pocket-newtab

censorship: aug15 Phone Apps 'legal malware': cybersecurity expert

"They Can Do Audio, Video, & Physical Surveillance On You 24H/365D A Year": Rex Lee On Intrusive Apps

by Tyler Durden
Sunday, Aug 14, 2022 - 08:25 PM

In this special episode, The Epoch Times' Tiffany Meier sat down with Rex M. Lee, cybersecurity adviser at My Smart Privacy. He helps shed light on China's cyberattacks on America, how they affect us in our daily lives, and what can be done to stop them.

Lee notes one way adversarial countries can get in is through invasive apps:

*"**You have to look at an app as legal malware.** And that's the best way you can describe apps today. An app—whether it's a social media app developed by Bytedance, such as TikTok, or Facebook, or Instagram—any of these apps, they are basically legal malware that enable the developer to monitor, track, and data mine the end user for financial gain 24 by seven, 365 days a year.*

"A single intrusive app enables the developer to collect over 5,000 highly confidential data points associated with the end user's personal information, business information, medical information, legal information, and employment information because **the surveillance and data mining done by these companies is indiscriminate**, meaning that they're not only collecting consumer information, they're collecting every bit of information from the end user, including text messages, email, email attachments, calendar events, and so forth," he added.

As to just how invasive these are, Lee said:

*"**What an app will do is it will interlink with all of the hardware on the device and the sensors on the device, such as camera and microphone, as well as sensors, such as the accelerometer. So they can do audio, video and physical surveillance on you 24 hours, 365 days a year while collecting those 5,000 highly confidential data points on the end user.** What they're doing is they package that and they monetize it. But also, as we're seeing in the news, is that these tech companies are aligned with governments. So the information a lot of times is ending up in the hands of the government."*

Meier also sat down with Greg Copley, president of the International Strategic Studies Association and author of "The New Total War." He touches on the recent buzz over House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's trip to Taiwan and what that means for this November, both in terms of our midterm elections and Chinese leader Xi Jinping seeking an unprecedented third term.

Copley said:

*“**We’re now getting a better idea as to how the People’s Liberation Army [PLA] would fight a war against Taiwan, if it came to that.** And if they in fact allowed the General Secretary Xi to make them go to war on the Taiwan issue, Japan has made it clear, and it repeated that declaration during Speaker Pelosi’s visit, that Japan would support Taiwan in the event of a military attack by the People’s Republic of China. Certainly, the U.S. will be drawn into it one way or another. Yes, it would involve high risks and the potential for many casualties. But it would also involve higher risks for the People’s Republic of China, not just in the direct conflict between the PLA and the Republic of China armed forces and the United States armed forces and the Japanese self-defense forces, but also there are other forces who would become engaged automatically.*

“That probably would include Australia, but it would certainly include India, and the Indian factor is one which Beijing does not wish to discuss openly. Even in the current war game posture against Taiwan, the PLA started moving additional forces down into the Tibetan plateau to be ready for an Indian response there. The Indian response would be massive. India has a similar force capability in many respects to the People’s Republic of China, and could move the entirety of its forces against the PRC, both on the Tibetan plateau and in the Eurasian context, but also in the Indian Ocean in a naval context,” he added.

Watch the full interview below:

https://www.zerohedge.com/markets/they-can-do-audio-video-physical-surveillance-you-24h365d-year-rex-lee-intrusive-apps

stats, markets, government, war, sanctions, china: aug8 Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Company: 53% of the foundry market

https://www.visualcapitalist.com/top-10-semiconductor-companies-by-market-share/

https://warontherocks.com/2020/06/the-chip-wars-of-the-21st-century/